Shepherds

March, 1949

To the Shepherds of Christ's Flock

Dearly beloved, you have heard of what dignity and of how great importance is this office whereunto you are called. And now again we exhort you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you are

(1) to be messengers, watchmen, and stewards of the Lord;

(2) to teach and to admonish, to feed and to provide for the Lord's family;

(3) to seek for Christ's sheep which are dispersed abroad, and for his children who are in the midst of this evil world, that they may be saved through Christ forever.

Have always, therefore, in your remembrance how great a treasure is committed to your charge. For they unto whom you are to minister are the sheep of Christ, for whom he gave his life.
—*Discipline*, Paragraph 1921.

The Shepherd's Greatest Season Is at Hand

It is no secret that the pre-Easter season is the high point of the Church Year, and that the greatest season for evangelism and for spiritual cultivation lies in the weeks and months immediately prior to Easter.

What a wonderful opportunity is the Pastor-Shepherd's! To win persons for Christ, to reclaim them, to train them, to develop them! Let us "buy up" the opportunity; let us redeem the time!
Every page of this magazine concerns the work of the Pastor, of his evangelistic laymen, and of the Committee on Membership and Evangelism.

With this issue there are a few inserts that could not be printed as a part of the magazine—like the Pocket Edition of *The Upper Room* which many pastors say they have never seen—and which we want pastors and churches to know about and use according to their vision and need.

Yours for the Greatest Evangelistic Victories you have ever had!

Advance

Through

Evangelism

SHEPHERDS

March, 1949

Vol. 3—No. 6

SHEPHERDS, a monthly journal of evangelism, is published monthly by TIDINGS, producer of quality literature on evangelism, the Church, and the Christian life, at low cost. It is dedicated to the winning of persons to Christ, by all means and methods, and to establishing them in their Christian lives. It concerns itself chiefly with the development of a well-rounded program of evangelism in the local church. SHEPHERDS is beamed to pastors and to evangelical laymen, especially to the all-important *Committee on Membership and Evangelism* in the local church. Each member of this committee should have this magazine. While the individual subscription price is $1.50 per year, a church may subscribe to it for the members of this committee at the rate of seven subscriptions for $10.00.

Single copies 15¢. Quantity orders of a single issue, as long as the supply lasts, 10¢ each. Copyright, Tidings, 1949. Printed in the U. S. A.

George Hawkins Jones, *Editor*
D. E. Jackson, *Business Manager*

Published by TIDINGS
1908 Grand Avenue
Nashville 4, Tennessee

WE MUST *Advance*

FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

Advance

- ✓ in making The Methodist Church an Evangelistic Church
- ✓ in winning persons for Christ of every age by every method
- ✓ in making every Methodist a witnessing Christian
- ✓ in winning decisions for Christ at our regular services
- ✓ in visitation and personal evangelism skills
- ✓ in training church school teachers to be evangelists
- ✓ in training persons for church membership and Christian living
- ✓ in assimilating our members in the life of the Church
- ✓ in establishing individuals and families in Bible reading, prayer, and the devotional life
- ✓ in winning whole families for Christ and in making our homes truly Christian
- ✓ in using the radio, the press, visual aids, motion pictures, evangelistic literature, and all available means of communication for Christ and His Church
- ✓ in establishing new churches "our calling to fulfill"

ADVANCE for Christ and His Church through EVANGELISM
Win Persons for Christ during Lent—1 for every 17 active members before Easter

THE PASTOR and The LENTEN SEASON

'Tis not a cause of small import
The pastor's care demands;
But what might fill an angel's heart,
And filled a Saviour's hands.

They watch for souls for whom the Lord
Did heavenly bliss forego;
For souls that must forever live
In rapture or in woe.

—Philip Doddridge

THE PASTOR HAS DUTIES

The duties of a pastor are: (in part)

1. To preach the gospel.
2. To administer the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, to perform the marriage ceremony, and to bury the dead, according to the *Discipline*.
3. To visit from house to house in order to give pastoral guidance and oversight to the members of the church and others in need of a pastor's help.
4. To instruct candidates for membership in the church in the doctrines, rules, and regulations of the church; to receive persons into membership; to receive and dismiss members by certificate.
5. To form classes of the children, youth, and adults for instruction in the Word of God, and to perform the duties prescribed for the training of children. . . .

17. To see that the people in the bounds of his charge are supplied with our church literature, including books, periodicals, and church-school literature. . . .
24. To furnish to every person uniting with the church on profession of faith, or from preparatory membership, a certificate of membership.

—Paragraph 352 of the 1948 *Discipline*

THE PASTOR and the SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

It shall be the duty of the officers and teachers of the church school, in co-operation with the pastor,

(1) to lead all members of the church school to make a profession of faith in Christ,

(2) to have a comprehension of the responsibilities involved in such profession, and

(3) to give evidence of a sincere and earnest determination to discharge them.

The pastor shall prepare the teachers of the church school, in connection with their regular duties, to instruct all members in the junior department and above in the meaning and practice of church membership, and

(The pastor) shall supplement such instruction as he may deem necessary.

—Paragraph 122 of the 1948 *Discipline*

THE PASTOR and CHILDREN'S MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

The pastor shall organize into classes the children of the church—when they have reached the age of twelve years, or at an earlier age when it is deemed advisable—

and shall meet them for *a minimum of thirteen sessions,*

(1) to instruct them in the nature, design, and obligations of Baptism, and

(2) in the truths of the Scriptures;

(3) to urge them to give regular attendance upon the public worship of the church;

(4) to advise, exhort, and encourage them to an immediate personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; and

(5) to instruct them in the use of the means of grace in living the Christian life.

Unbaptized children may, with the consent of their parents or guardians be recognized and recorded as members of the preparatory classes.

In order that this special training by the pastor may be properly related to the needs and experiences of the children and to the Christian teaching they are receiving in the church school, the pastor may appoint one or more suitable persons to assist him in such class instruction for church membership.

He shall plan carefully for the reception of members of the church according to the provisions of the Discipline.

—Paragraph 123 of the 1948 *Discipline*

RECEIVING CHILDREN INTO THE CHURCH

When children have thus been prepared and have given evidence of understanding their Christian privileges and obligations and of their Christian faith and purpose, they may be admitted into full membership in the church according to the provisions of the Discipline for admission into the Church. (See Paragraph 113)

—Paragraph 124 of the 1948 *Discipline*

REQUIREMENTS FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

All persons seeking to be saved from their sins and desiring to live the Christian life are eligible for membership in The Methodist Church.

It shall be the duty of the pastor to instruct, or to appoint suitable leaders to instruct, all persons offering themselves for church membership in the principles of the Christian life, in the baptismal and membership vows, and in the rules and regulations of The Methodist Church.

—Paragraphs 111, 112 of the 1948 *Discipline*

THE EASTER BUNNY AND THE CROSS

THE Bunny and the Egg very frequently have been allowed to have more emphasis than the Cross at the Easter season. It is the opportunity of the church to make use of all Easter symbolism and to make people, even church people, realize that Easter has spiritual values which far outshine the secular and commercial interests that have been developed.

IT is a sound principle of publicity and advertising to take advantage of the opportunities that come to us through time and circumstance. Why not apply those same principles to our work with the church? Capitalize on the promotion that Lent and Easter receive from other denominations, from business houses, from advertising, and through newspapers, secular publications, and the radio. The problem is to make the place of the church and the spiritual emphasis of this season paramount in the thinking of the people.

WE ALL EXPECT to have full houses on Easter. Every church is able to draw a large crowd of worshipers on this occasion. A part of the reason is that each church benefits from all the publicity that comes with the Easter season. The effect of all these promotions is cumulative and has some effect on the lives of our people as we can readily see by our Easter attendance. If we do not do something to bring these promotions into line with the real message and spirit of Easter, we will have missed a great opportunity.

ASH WEDNESDAY is on March 2nd. Why not have a message go to every family for which your church has a responsibility prior to this day urging each one to make Lent and the Easter season especially meaningful in 1949? Your message can be delivered by teams of visitors or by letter. Suggest that, at least for the Easter season, every home should have a family altar and every individual should have some time for personal meditation. Include a copy of THE UPPER ROOM. The March-April issue will include all of Lent.

IF YOUR CHURCH is to make a special campaign for family altars during the Lent season, it would be well for you to provide some demonstration of how easy it is for a family to observe family worship. There are many families in your church that have never had a family altar and probably parents who never read aloud from the Bible or uttered an audible prayer before their children. They need to be shown just how simple and easy it is. They need to know that it is easy to find helpful Bible passages which can be read from day to day. The most convenient guide to such a program is THE UPPER ROOM. Its use can be demonstrated very helpfully in a church service. Have a family sit at a table at the front of the church and show just how the Bible readings, meditation, and the prayer come easily and naturally at mealtime. Surely a family that learns to have family worship during the Lenten season will be putting spiritual content into Easter.

MANY A PASTOR preaches to a full house on Easter Sunday because of the promotional efforts of other churches and of secular institutions.

EVERY PASTOR and church will think of ways to put spiritual content into the pre-Easter season. We must make sure that our people realize that Easter is an institution of Christianity and not of the merchants. We must emphasize the fact that the Easter season is a time when we are literally "living in the shadow of the cross."

MOST OF US expect to do a little extra reading of religious books during the Easter season. It is easy to persuade many Christians to do this also. It is a regular part of the Easter program emphasized in some churches, and we can make it a part of ours.

THE PRE-EASTER SEASON is a time when we ought to give real emphasis to the value and necessity of family devotions. Surely in the Lenten season we can talk to our people about giving as much time to God as they do to reading the funny papers. Here is a time when we can emphasize asking God's blessing at mealtime, Bible reading, and prayer.

THE SUNDAYS OF LENT offer an opportunity for greater emphasis on the attendance at worship service. Ask the people if they are not willing to attend at least one worship service each Sunday during Lent. Perhaps you can provide some means for keeping track of church attendance and provide recognition for those who have attended on all six Sundays. Simply listing the names in the bulletin on Easter Sunday may seem childish, but if people know it is to be done, it will bring results.

If we expect to have a carry-over in the weeks and months ahead we must put spiritual content into the promotion and make every service a spiritual one. In your church and your community, make sure that Easter is a religious *holy* day. Make it clear that Easter and Lent have spiritual significance—that it is the Cross and not the bunny that symbolizes this great Christian festival.

The cross, O Christ, Thy wondrous love revealing,
Awakes our hearts as with the light of morn,
And pardon o'er our sinful spirits stealing
Tells us that we, in Thee, have been reborn.

—*Thomas Tiplady.*

What Can *YOU* Do With THE WEEK OF DEDICATION?

by Bishop William C. Martin
Chairman, The Advance for Christ and His Church

This article is written for pastors. Let's begin with a fact that will not be questioned: What the Week of Dedication means to any congregation will depend upon what the pastor really wants it to mean. This is not to say that the pastor can make plans for the Week and carry them out alone. It does mean that the initiative rests with him. There can be no substitute for his leadership.

Let me suggest three things which the pastor should keep in mind as he makes preparation for this Week. The *first* is that *the Week of Dedication has a definite relation to the observance of the Lenten Season.* This is a period in the Christian year which has vast possibilities for deepening the devotional life of our people. It is generally agreed that we shall not be able to move forward, with confidence, in establishing Christ's Kingdom until we become more sure of God. Someone has called attention to the fact that when we spend five minutes a day thinking about God and all the rest of the time thinking about material things, we need not be surprised that material things are about two hundred times as real to us as God is. This ration of emphasis is not likely to be changed until the Church gives more effective direction to the devotional habits of its members.

I recently heard a minister complaining because the Church could not find a single fifteen-minute period in the whole schedule of a radio station to present its message. The time had all been taken up by commercial interests. If the leaders of the Church remain inactive, the same will be true with these strictly limited fifty-two weeks of the year. Somebody else will pre-empt them for this or that or something else. We are thinking, you see, in terms of a Week that will be observed annually not only through the period of this quadrennium, but through all the years ahead. Already an inter-faith movement is developing with respect to this Week which may result in its being given national significance. It will be well, therefore, to make this first observance as impressive and meaningful as possible.

A *second* fact to be remembered is *the world situation requires American Christians to think beyond the borders of their own land.* Our people need to be reminded that the faith which costs the average church member in this country so little has been very expensive for many of their fellow-Christians in other parts of the world. One of the lasting impressions which some of us brought away from Amsterdam was the memory of men like Bishop Bergrav of Norway and Pastor Martin Niemoller of Germany whose loyalty to God had cost them long imprisonment. If our faith cost us more, we might prize it more highly. And then we need to think, with vivid imagination, about the needs of the people in stricken lands who still look to us for the food and clothing which can make the difference between hope and despair.

That brings up a point which I want to emphasize with particular directness. A pastor recently asked his district superintendent, "Isn't the main purpose of this Week to secure a missionary offering?" The minister or layman who approaches the Week with that misconception will miss the whole significance of it. The observance does carry with it the opportunity of expressing our gratitude to God by means of a free-will offering which will be used to minister to urgent human need. But the offering is wholly secondary.

Bishop Kern's statement concerning the major emphasis must always be kept in mind: "It will be a Week for self searching, for prayer, for fellowship, for testimony, for sharing, for self dedication. Preachers and laymen, all of us together, will seek the altars of our God and find new strength for new tasks." If there is a member in any of our churches who would be hindered in the process of entering into a deeper knowledge of God and a fuller loyalty to Christ's Kingdom by the making of an offering, then that member should, by all means, refrain from bringing the gift.

The *third* fact to be kept in mind is that *this is the first year of the Advance for Christ and His Church.* The emphasis of these initial months is upon "Our Faith." What a fine opportunity the Week of Dedication brings for pushing back the horizons of our Christian beliefs! We are aware that all great living comes out of great believing. Wherever we find a great life, if we trace it back to its origin we find that it is the outgrowth of a great faith. There can be no doubt that the days ahead will be difficult days for people who have no faith.

During this period of preparation for the teaching and preaching endeavor of the Advance, what could be more profitable for the spiritual growth of a congregation than for the pastor to lead his people into an acquaintance with some Christian literature which will stimulate and feed their minds and hearts? If a pastor will choose from the list of books proposed by the Advance Committee three books suited to the varied levels of interest of his congregation, and get his people to begin the reading of at least one of these books, the week of Dedication will be of permanent value in his church.

These are three suggestions for the observance of this Week. In the light of the specific needs and hungers of his own people, each pastor will think of others. I close with a repetition of the opening statement: *The Week of Dedication will be just as significant as the pastor really wants it to be.*

The Call to Evangelism

Northwest Indiana Conference of the Methodist Church

"Advance for Christ and His Church"

1. A much greater emphasis upon week by week personal evangelism in winning individuals (all ages) to Christ and membership in the church.
   (a) Through intensified pastoral soul-winning and the training and guidance of laymen in this vital Christian work.
   (b) Through the guidance and use of Church School teachers in personal evangelism and a functioning Fellowship of Evangelism in each church carefully trained and consecrated to soul-winning.
2. A Conference-wide simultaneous program of Personal and Visitation Evangelism during the three weeks preceeding Palm Sunday.
   (a) Each district to be responsible for promotional work, plans, dates, etc., for their churches.
3. A carefully prepared responsibility roll (up-to-date) of all who should be reached for Christ and membership in the church.
   (a) This responsibility roll to be used for continuous week-by-week evangelism as well as during special personal visitation campaigns.
4. A positive renewal of emphasis upon the importance of mass evangelism through a series of meetings, spiritual retreats, and parish-wide unit groups for prayer, study, and Christian action
5. A class or classes in each church for the training of both children and adults who come into the membership of the church.
6. A sponsor appointed for each new member of the church (all ages) who will take a special interest in them and help relate their time and talents to the active life and work of the church.
7. A determination that for the sake of people who need to find the Christian way of life, we will strive to reach at least a 10% gross or 5% net increase in the membership of each church.
8. A concentrated effort to reach our young people for Christian decision during a special week, "My Pal for Christ Week," to be observed January 16 to 23, 1949.
9. A personal endeavor during youth week and persistently at all times to secure young men and women to a dedication of their lives to the Christian ministry, missionary work, nursing, etc.
10. A daily remembering of our brother ministers and laymen of the conference as they seek to lead others into a full and meaningful Christian experience and membership in the church.

Evangelism, always urgent, is now imperative.

"For the Sake of People who need Christ"

The above is a photograph of a card sent out by the Northwest Indiana Conference Board of Evangelism with the letter given in the next column. The editor has reduced the letter slightly, taking out some local references, that it might apply to any Conference.

A LETTER TO MINISTERS

Dear Brother Minister:

There is a growing sense of the urgency of winning people to Christ. I believe this is particularly true among the pastors. In a meeting a few days ago, one of our men said it this way, "I am recommitting my life to the essential work of soul winning." Another suggested, "I am determined not only to train my laymen, but to inspire them by my consecration to the work of personal evangelism."

May I suggest that we begin our personal devotions with prayer for one another and that we continue this daily remembrance. If we have a deep heart-yearning for people, something revolutionary is going to take place. We will be reaching people with a conviction that they need a vital Christian experience. Then we will not be content until we have used every means of guiding them in Christian growth and practice.

The next few days should find us in the midst of the most intensive work of evangelism we have ever experienced. It will demand from each one of us much prayer, preparation, and dedication. It is not possible for me to convey to you how deeply I feel about this imperative of our ministry.

Yours in Christian Service
T. L. STOVALL
Chairman, Board of Evangelism
Northwest Indiana Conference
Terre Haute, Indiana

Will You Please

Will you please read the letter again?

"Recommitting my life to . . . soul winning."

"Determined to train my laymen . . . to inspire them by my consecration to . . . personal evangelism."

"The next few days . . . the most intensive work of evangelism we have ever experienced."

Now Is the Time

The General Conference—nearly 900 of the best laymen and ministers in the land—challenged Methodism to make this the greatest quadrennium of soul-winning our church or any church has ever undertaken.

This is the year to start.

This is the time of the year to do it.

If we do not do it before Easter—400,000 on confession of faith for 1949—we will not do it at all.

1949 Conferences start meeting right after Easter.

We are not regimented.

We are "pressured" into winning others.

We do not have literature thrust at us, or even given us. We must order and pay for (at reasonable cost) what we need.

Yet we believe we will accomplish the goal.

We believe we will accomplish it because pastors, district superintendents, and laymen want to accomplish it—and are willing to pay the price, do their part in it.

So may it be.

CONTINUE YOUR PREPARATION
National Visitation Evangelism Week
MARCH 20-24

---Immediately following the Week of Dedication---

by Dawson C. Bryan, Director of Personal and Visitation Evangelism

The week of March 20-24 has been designated as National Visitation Evangelism Week for a simultaneous visitation evangelism program in every Methodist church. No season of the year provides such an opportunity to win people to Christ and His church as that prior to Easter. This week of March 20 comes at the center of the Pre-Easter season.

The observance of an intensive evangelistic visitation during this week will provide every pastor with a large number of new members to be received on Palm Sunday or Easter. The spiritual emphasis of the Week of Dedication will undergird the evangelistic visiting. All plans for the visitation should be completed prior to the Week of Dedication. This week should be used for the spiritual revitalization and commitment of the workers. All plans should be completed to begin the visitation on Monday night, March 21.

Purpose of Visitation Week

Visitation Evangelism Week will help the pastor to reach the unchurched and unaffiliated people in his community. It will help him meet his minimum objectives in evangelism. It will make evangelism the central objective during the season commemorating the Passion of our Lord and Savior.

Two Requirements of Success

Adequate preparation will make possible the reaching of the largest number of people. Two things well done will guarantee results. The first is AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF PROSPECTS. Each church is responsible for every person in its community who could be won to Christ through it.

The prospect list can be compiled in the following manner:

(1) A Friendly Community Study.

(2) A Survey of the church school and other church organizations—for several weeks in succession getting the information of church affiliation of members of all families connected with the church. This will compose the Constituency Roll.

(3) A Roll Call of all present at church services, getting names of all visitors, will add other names. All of these names together should be compiled on Prospect and Assignment Cards for the visitation. This should be completed during February.

The second requirement is SUFFICIENT VISITORS, to visit the persons listed on the Prospect and Assignment Cards. The pastor should personally secure the agreement of competent visitors who will serve the four nights of Visitation Week. This should be done the last week in February and the first week in March. A copy of *A Handbook of Evangelism for Laymen* read by each visitor prior to the Week of Visitation will prepare the laymen for the calling. The pastor will then be ready to have an intensive evangelistic endeavor. A smaller piece of helpful literature that each visitor should have is "Instructions for Evangelistic Workers."

The Week of Visitation

The pastor should make arrangements for the suppers with his evangelistic workers and for the Visitation on four nights of the week beginning March 20. (On circuits, pastors may wish to have simultaneous campaigns in every church, or they may set a different week of visitation for each church.) Instructions in Visitation Evangelism and the best ways of winning people to Christ and the Church will be presented by the pastor each evening. Visiting in the homes for Christian commitments will follow from 7:00 to 9:30 P.M. each evening.

The Results

With every pastor and church in Methodism co-operating there will be an ingathering in every congregation, and several hundred thousand will be won to the Kingdom. Let every pastor and layman prove faithful.

ORDER SUPPLIES NOW
for the Week of Visitation Evangelism

You need to use these in February

Friendly Community Study (Survey) cards, 50¢ per 100
Friendly Community Study folders, 2¢ each
Friendly Community Study envelopes, 50¢ per 100
Prospect and Assignment cards, 50¢ per 100
Preparation and Organization folders, 2¢ each

You need to use these in March

Visitation Agreement cards, 50¢ per 100
Instructions for Evangelistic Workers, 2¢ each
Record of Commitment cards, 50¢ per 100

Order now from TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 4, Tenn.

Visitation Evangelism books may be ordered from the Publishing House

"A Workable Plan of Evangelism," by Bryan ($1.50) for pastors.
"A Handbook of Evangelism for Laymen," by Bryan (50¢ on consignment).

The above *Handbook* is included in Tidings' $1.00 Evangelistic Packet for Laymen.

THREE CHURCHES DOUBLE MEMBERSHIP

---This Can Happen in Many Places---

by Mahlon B. Young, Director of Evangelism
California-Nevada Annual Conference

There are thousands of churches in Methodism that are struggling along, having been receiving missionary support for most or all of their history, which could and should be made self-supporting and much more effective in their communities. Here are three which have, in the past few weeks, more than doubled their strength in brief campaigns of Visitation Evangelism in the California-Nevada Conference.

Exhibit One

SONOMA has for years been a student appointment or a place for some retired brother to just "keep things going." William J. Owen, superintendent of the Redwood Empire District, saw possibilities there and sent Quincy Hamilton as pastor on a full-time basis. This young pastor also saw possibilities, canvassed a neighboring community four miles away, known as "The Valley of the Moon" of Jack London fame.

Hamilton decided the parish should and could be enlarged and a new church started out there. He arranged for the Conference Director of Evangelism to come, and the result was 84 new members added to the membership (78 having been reported at Conference in June).

Bishop Tippett went up there on October 31, and a new church was formally organized with more than 50 members and the Sonoma Church was greatly strengthened at the same time. Lots have been purchased for the new church and in the not-too-distant future we should have two thriving self-supporting churches in place of one lame one marking time.

Exhibit Two

THEN LOOK AT VALLEY SPRINGS which has been the tail end of a student appointment until a year ago last Conference when William Converse, a young man (who had not learned that things can't happen) was sent to "Farmington and Valley Springs," with residence in Farmington 25 miles from the little church up in the hills.

Warren Bonner, the D. S., asked the writer to go up and see what could be done at Valley Springs. Now, this little church was organized back in 1885 with six members and has never had more than 20 or 25 at any one time. Results? This little church of 15 members (the only Methodist church in Calaveras county) has had its first "Membership Sunday" on which it received an even 50 new members, and it has 29 pledged to come in at the second Membership Sunday. Add 79 to 15—this is about 520% increase. Now this church is thinking in terms of a new building and a full-time pastor.

Exhibit Three

NOW LET'S GO TO SPRINGVILLE. No, you don't know where it is—many of you who even live in California. Well, it's 18 miles up in the foothills from Porterville where the nearest church is to be found. Springville had 46 members and a parsonage in which you would not want to live.

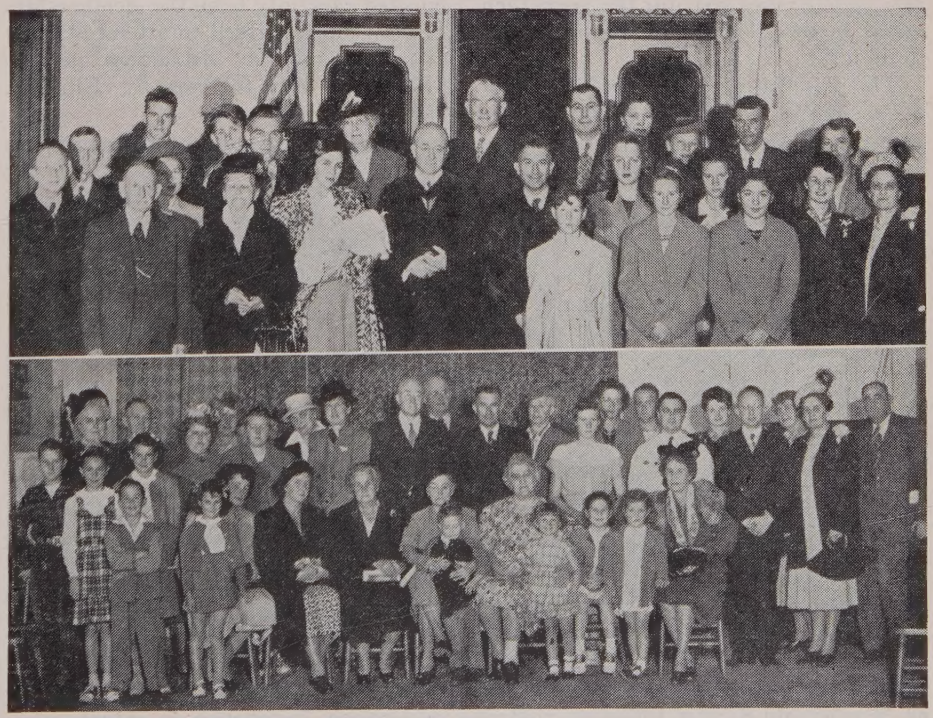
N. A. Christensen, the D. S., saw possibilities, brought out Roy Q. Whiting from New England and put him in (with subsidy) and said: "Let's see what can be done with adequate leadership and Visitation Evangelism." And now, after four nights of visiting, 47 new members are pledged to join the present 46, and the workers are to visit two more nights before "Membership Sunday."

We should also mention the fact that Roy Whiting has well on the way one of the nicest parsonages in the Conference. Yes, we will be hearing a lot of preachers saying: "Let's go to Springville," for it will be a nice place to live and it has some of God's finest people.

Matter of Leadership

In all three of these places we took in a few neighboring pastors to assist and in all places we reached some of the most important people in the communities.

These things have happened so often that they almost cease to be news in the California-Nevada Conference, but they should and can happen many more times. To be sure there are some churches that must ever be small and yet must be maintained, but often it is so largely a matter of pastoral leadership and time for a director to come in.



Pictures of new members received into two of these churches which doubled their memberships. In the top picture, Bishop Tippett is at the center of the new members received at Sonoma on the first Membership Sunday.

Visitation Evangelism Works IN A DOWNTOWN CHURCH

by Russell R. Robinson, Associate Pastor
First Methodist Church, Long Beach, California

The First Methodist Church, Long Beach, California, has long been considered a great church in its Conference. Recent years have brought a huge new population to make the city great as well. A few months ago the conscience of the church began to feel that it had not adequately reached these new folk, most of whom have not as yet re-established their church connections. Thus a compassion for the unchurched throng began to stir in the breasts of the membership.

So far as action is concerned, it all began during a meeting of the membership committee one night. Previous to this meeting the minister, William Harrison Myers, and the associate minister had decided it would be wise to launch a visitation evangelism endeavor. As the membership committee on this particular night became more and more warmed up to their large responsibility they began to conjure up visions. Among these visions they set a large new membership goal for the year, then asked in awe, "But how are we going to do it?"

The associate pastor, meeting with the committee, used the opportunity to refer to the visitation program that the ministers had been hoping for. "We've done it before," the committee said, "and it isn't very successful." (The truth is, they weren't sufficiently prepared for it the first time.) However, they were prevailed upon to make another attempt with proper preparation. The committee soon saw the necessity for enlisting church-wide support, and intensive preparation.

The plan followed was that of Guy H. Black and of Dawson Bryan's book, *A Workable Plan of Evangelism*. We combed our constituent rolls for prospects, went over the church school records for unchurched parents and used every other possible source short of an actual house-to-house survey. In future programs we will want to take the survey as well.

107 Decisions Secured

There were 120 visitors who were selected carefully from the membership. These visitors agreed to attend at least two of the three instruction periods which were to be followed by visitation. Sunday noon after church the whole group of visitors met for a meal in the social hall of the church. Following this, instructions were given by Mr. Robinson and visitation assignments for the afternoon were given out. Similar dinner meetings were held for instructions and assignments on the next two evenings.

The results weren't spectacular, but they were substantial, as they had to be with careful planning and a large number of consecrated visitors. As a result of the three days' work, 107 decisions for membership were secured. Slightly under half of these were persons who had never before been church members. In addition many contacts were made that will bear fruitage in future visitations.

Our most spectacular results were not in new members, but in the impact made upon the visitors, who had the time of their lives. Further results were apparent in the "lift" that was given to the whole outlook of the church. The visitors came back with a spiritual glow and words of enthusiasm pouring from their lips. One person said, "This has been the greatest religious experience of my life. I'm glad you persuaded me to go when I said I was too self-conscious."

Julius R. Young

A picture of most of the 78 persons who united with First Church, Long Beach, Cal., on Membership Sunday following visitation evangelism. Instruction in church membership and the Christian life was given them before Membership Sunday. Included in this picture are a few of the visitation workers who won them. The pastor is at the right, and his associate at the left.

Assimilating the Members

On Sunday morning, October 24, seventy-eight of these new members joined in a body. They had to stand two deep at the altar rail. Before their reception into the church in this significant service, these new members had participated in pre-membership conferences for orientation and training. Those joining on profession of faith came to two evening sessions, and those uniting on transfer, came to one session where they were acquainted with the local church program and greeted by the chairman of the official board. At this orientation meeting each prospective new member was given a brochure containing a welcome, and information about his new church home.

It will do no good to take new mem-

bers in the front door and have unassimilated ones slipping out the back door. Therefore, under the leadership of the pastor, a parish program has been devised and is now being put into effect. This will not only assimilate the new members, but also bind the present membership together.

Now for the future, is the church ready to settle back? Far from it. In the first place, they are only well started on the new membership goal set-up for the year. Secondly the laity have become aroused. Thus, a "Fellowship of the Seventy" is being formed to continue each month at least one evening of concentrated Visitation Evangelism. All indications are that it will actually contain seventy regular visitors. Furthermore, they will handle the detail work themselves under the supervision of the associate pastor. Thus, the processing of the Prospect and Assignment Cards, reports, contacting replacements in the ranks of "The Seventy" and similar work will not be an additional burden on the church staff.

A Continuous Task

The future is one of hard work and intensive cultivation of these fields which are "white unto the harvest." The great influx of population has made it imperative that all existing churches in our city exert even greater efforts to reach the unchurched masses. There are enough unchurched Methodists, alone, to keep all of the Methodist churches expanding rapidly. This does not even take into account the persons who have never belonged to any church. Ours then must be a continuing task, or the Master's work will remain unfinished. But this we know. The continuing task for us will be with emphasis upon visitation evangelism. It works!

WE SUGGEST

We suggest that the following will be useful to pastors in training their boys and girls in church membership, and that copies might well be put into the hands of each of them:

The Methodist Primer
(25 for $5.00)

A Word to New Members
(12 for $1.00)

The Methodist Church
($2.00 per 100)

I Am Proud to Be a Methodist
($1.50 per 100)

The above should be put in the hands of new adult members also, and

The Beliefs of a Methodist Christian
(10 for $3.00)

TIDINGS, 1908 Grand, Nashville 4, Tenn.

HOW VISITATION EVANGELISM WORKS

—Illustrated by an Actual Week of Visitation—

This is a tabulated story of the results of eight teams who visited a total of 60 hours, and won 79 new members and reclaimed 21—a total of 110 for Christ and His Church.

The place was Bainbridge, a town in the South Georgia Conference, and the director of the visitation was W. A. Kelley, Conference Director of Evangelism.

The director worked out a system of reporting (illustrated below) that is more elaborate than most systems, but one that shows the total picture better and one that pastors and district superintendents might adopt for themselves with much profit. This system of reporting shows the number of persons won for the church school and the youth fellowship, and the inactive members reclaimed, as well as the number won on profession and by transfer.

Eight teams visited on these four nights in Bainbridge, Ga., and they ran true to the usual experience, in that smaller results were secured on the first night than on succeeding nights. The following tabulation is the first night's results:

RESULTS—FIRST NIGHT

	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5	Team 6	Team 7	Team 8	Total Monday
Homes Called at	4	2	6	3	4	4	4	4	31
Homes Actually Visited	4	1	3	3	4	2	1	4	22
Won on Profession	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	6
Won by Transfer	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	6
New Ch. Sch. Members	0	1	3	0	2	1	0	1	6
New MYF Members	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	4
Members Reclaimed	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
Hours Visited	2	1½	2½	1	2½	2	1	2½	15

It will be noted above that seven of the eight teams got some kind of results on the first night. Team No. 7 was the only one that failed to get results the first night, and it actually visited in only one home.

On the other hand, look at the record of Team No. 5. This is the only team that had had previous experience. The members of this team had visited once before. On this night it visited in four homes, won two persons on profession, two by transfer, secured two new members for the church school, one for the youth fellowship, and reclaimed an inactive member.

We do not list the teams' results of the other three nights of visitation, but only the total results. A glance at the following tabulation will show the accumulated results of the visitation.

RESULTS—FOUR NIGHTS

	Monday Totals	Tuesday Totals	Wednes. Totals	Thurs. Totals	Grand Totals
Homes Called at	31	42	48	56	177
Homes Visited	22	34	34	48	138
Won on Profession	6	10	12	16	44
Won by Transfer	6	11	14	4	35
New Ch. Sch. Members	8	9	11	2	30
New MYF Members	4	6	6	2	18
Members Reclaimed	3	5	5	8	21
Hours Visited	15	18	20	16	60

The number won on profession of faith increased each night. The number won by transfer increased each night, except the last. The number of members secured for the church school and the youth fellowship increased or held its own each night, except the last. The number reclaimed increased or held its own each night.

HOURS VISITED: 60.
PERSONS WON: 79—By profession, 44; by transfer, 35.
PERSONS RECLAIMED: 21.
NEW CHURCH SCHOOL MEMBERS: 30.
NEW MYF MEMBERS: 18.

Visitation evangelism works! Let it work for you.
Use it March 20-25, Methodism's great Week of Visitation.
Use it over and over again.

The UPPER ROOM Editor and the LITERATURE RACK

"Like Brother John Wesley"

says Don E. Schooler

Pastor, Muskogee, Oklahoma

When I look at the advertisement for The Upper Room Literature Rack with the heading "An Ideal Gift for Your Church," I am reminded that we have three such racks in our church—two in the vestibule and one in the main entrance to the church.

We are distributing 600 pamphlets every Sunday. That is one way in which I think I am like Brother John Wesley—I, too, think pamphlet distribution is of tremendous value. We also send *The Christian Advocate* to every family in our church. We feel that there is a definite response to this special work we are doing.

"A Real Factor in My Ministry"

says Archie E. Acey

Pastor, Portsmouth, Virginia

The use of the literature rack as a medium of distributing evangelistic leaflets has been a real factor in my ministry for the last several years. During my stay at the Main Street Church (Danville, Va.) our people became educated to the value of using leaflets prepared by our church.

One for the Cook

"I heard Mrs. Sapp of South Georgia say that when she bought her *Upper Room* at the church she always secured two—one for her cook."

CHAPLAINS' FUND Provides "A New Morning Start"

Dear Editor:

Your gift of *The Upper Rooms* is lovingly accepted. The men seem to derive a benefit from them, for we have had a good many calls for the next issue already. *The Upper Room* is one of the best ways we have of reaching the men; they seem to look forward to the next day's lesson, or as one of them put it, "a new morning start." *What better way could a man start the day* than with the word of God in his heart, food for thought in his mind, and a spiritual word on the tip of his tongue?

The Upper Room can be, and I hope will be, a leader in this institution. I hope we can continue to receive the books, and if possible the current issue. I find that they throw away a copy that is of past date but keep and use one that is up-to-date.

—*George A. Phelps,* Chaplain
Illinois State Penitentiary, Menard Branch

EDITOR'S NOTE—Many individuals and groups make gifts to the Chaplains' Fund which makes possible the distribution of *The Upper Room* by chaplains of military units, veterans hospitals, prisons, and certain other institutions.

Veterans Express Appreciation for ANECDOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Gentlemen:

"This morning a carton containing one hundred copies of *The Upper Room* arrived as your gift toward the spiritual welfare of our patients.

"The Veterans Administration Hospital of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, wishes to express their thanks to you for your generous gift and also share the patients' hearty appreciation.

"As Chaplain of this great institution, I feel that there is nothing quite as helpful as the practical aid in their scripture reading and in their prayer life given by *The Upper Room.* The Bible comes first, but by practical experience, I find that the patients read *The Upper Room* for the devotional inspiration which it gives them. They tell me how they appreciate the anecdotes and illustrations that run throughout each issue. They speak of them as 'pegs' whereupon they can remember the scripture readings and the great lessons. The experiences of other people's lives serve as steppingstones to the spiritual improvement of the patients.

"The Veterans Administration extends their thanks for your interest in our patients and institution. May we look forth to the next shipment."

—*G. Jay Umberger,* Chaplain, Veterans Hospital,
Lebanon, Pa.

"Our Calling to Fulfill"

John V. Madison, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, believes that *The Upper Room* will aid him in the ministry to the people he serves. Here are some of the ways that he makes sure that *The Upper Room* will help:

He makes a round of calls in each of two hospitals every week. Since Sioux Falls is the center of a considerable area, he usually finds about twenty Methodists in each hospital—many of them from as far away as two hundred miles. "I give a copy of *The Upper Room* to each person visited, if there is any indication that he or she will use it," he writes.

Whenever he performs a wedding service he includes a copy of *The Upper Room* with the wedding certificate and with the exhortation to "begin the new home by having devotions together." He recommends *The Upper Room* and urges them to use it, unless they already have some other plan for establishing the family altar in their home.

The church visitor always carries copies with her and leaves one wherever she calls. Likewise the visitors for the Home Department take a copy of each issue to the homes of the shut-ins.

Copies of *The Upper Room* are always available on the literature tables and people are urged to take them, whether or not they drop a coin in the box. "We want them to use *The Upper Room*," says Mr. Madison.

We Salute a Husband and Wife

In the past three years Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Reeder have had five hospital experiences. More than that: fire destroyed all they had. Mr. Reeder has angina, so his ability to work is limited; and Mrs. Reeder is in failing health. But they have not lost interest in helping to bear the burdens of others who are less fortunate. Recently they entered a standing order for fifty copies of *The Upper Room* to be sent to the Eversley Child Treatment Station (for lepers) in Cebu City, Philippines. They also have sent gifts from time to time to this station and to the church there.

In their home they keep extra copies of *The Upper Room* so that whenever a visitor comes they may give a copy with an urgent request that it be used each day.

Compiled His Own Index

Frank C. Richardson, a minister of Beloit, Wisconsin, finds the material of *The Upper Room* such a rich source of inspiration and illustration for use in preparation of sermons that he has indexed the last six years of *The Upper Room* and is now indexing another year. The indexing itself has been a rich experience, for he has found something of permanent value in every meditation. He writes also: "Hereafter I will always be willing to doff my hat to a compiler of indexes."

AN UNPUBLISHED MEDITATION

"Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." Ecclesiastes 11:1. (Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-6.)

It has been my custom for a number of years to distribute copies of *The Upper Room* among the patients in the wards and semi-private rooms of the hospital when I visit members there. Many testimonies have been given me by these patients concerning the blessings received as they read certain lessons that met their particular needs.

On July 7, 1948, a friend of mine who was scheduled for the operating room at 9 A.M. picked up his copy of *The Upper Room* and read the lesson for the day. It concluded with this "Thought for the Day": *"The Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."*—Joshua 1:9. Every word of the comment seemed to have been written for his peculiar situation.

He noticed that the lesson had been written by Mrs. Grace Noll Crowell (Texas). With grateful appreciation, he wrote a brief note to her expressing his gratitude for the help she had given him in meeting his ordeal.

Ten days later he received a beautiful letter from Mrs. Crowell in which she said: "I have always prayed that I might write the things that would prove helpful to my fellow men, and to be thus told is like knowing a prayer has been definitely answered."

We little realize how far reaching is the written or spoken word of cheer and encouragement. Let us be more alert in expressing our appreciation for strength and courage received from others.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, in these days of so much criticism and misunderstanding, grant that we may ever be ready to give the words of appreciation and encouragement that are due our fellow men. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"More than fame and more than money
Is the comment kind and sunny,
And the hearty, warm approval of a friend."

Charles Carroll Bailey (Pennsylvania)
St. Paul's Evangelical Church, York, Pa.

We feel that we cannot let meditations in *The Upper Room* advertise or express appreciation of *The Upper Room* itself. Therefore we print this fine contribution here.

The Upper Room Hour for Men

Today I went to a Quiet Hour at noon in the Methodist Church of New Britain, Connecticut. There were four or five laymen present. They meet every Tuesday at noon for fifteen minutes to pray, then they go to lunch. They have been doing this for three years. They use *The Upper Room*. The meditation for December 7 was read and we prayed silently.

It seems to me that here is a good idea. Thought you would like to know about it: The Upper Room Hour for Men.

The Home, Church School, and Church Co-operated in

Bringing Boys and Girls Into the Church

by Charles Drake Skinner
Delaware Towers, Chicago, Illinois

There have been many ways in which boys and girls have passed from the home and the Church School into membership of the Church. This is no attempt to present an ideal way, but simply one way that was used in the Year of Church School Advance that may be worthy of consideration by others. The boys and girls were in the Junior and Intermediate Departments of St. James Methodist Church School, Chicago, Illinois.

The first step was with the teachers personally. They were asked to read at least three pieces of literature, namely: "The Teacher Leading Boys and Girls to Christ," by Mary Skinner; "The Teacher Leading Youth to Christ," by Hoover Rupert; and "Teaching for a Verdict," by Dr. John Q. Schisler (all available from the Board of Education, 810 Broadway, Nashville). It was felt that a teacher should have the privilege, as well as the responsibility, of being the individual to first approach the pupil about being publicly identified as a follower of Christ and to prepare for membership in the Church. If the response of a pupil was favorable, the name was turned over to the associate pastor as a prospect for the Pastor's Instruction Class. In most churches this would be turned over to the pastor himself.

His first step was to dictate a personal letter to each boy and girl. This was an attempt to follow up the teacher's appeal with a simple explanation of what it meant to be a member of the Pastor's Instruction Class. The work of the class was not to take the place of religious training in the home, or instruction in the Church School, but to supplement the same. It was emphasized that one of the important benefits of being a member of the Instruction Class was the association with the pastor and the opportunity for them to know each other in an intimate way. The letter closed with the suggestion that the pupil talk over the matter with his or her parents, and the writer would contact the parents later and explain further the work of the class and answer any questions.

The next step was to contact the parents, which brought some interesting results. The parents were especially appreciative of the interest the Church and Church School were taking in children. In a few instances the parents decided to unite with the Church themselves. In other cases they expressed a willingness to consider the matter and decide on coming in at the time when the children had completed their course of instruction. Naturally the majority of the parents were already members of St. James.

At a Sunday morning service the pastor, George A. Fowler, called to the Altar the boys and girls who were to be in his Instruction Class with the approval of their parents, in what was called a "Recognition Service." He explained to the congregation that these boys and girls were not joining the Church in full membership at that time, but were to be in his class for instruction and guidance leading up to full membership. He also exhorted the members of the Church to accept their responsibility of being the local church into whose membership the children would come. He then asked the boys and girls to kneel and repeat after him a prayer of consecration. The final step became the work in the Pastor's Instruction Class itself, which met from week to week.

In this simple program, the Home, the Church School, and the Church cooperated to train the boys and girls for membership in the Church. Twice the boys and girls knelt at the Altar of the Church—once at the "Recognition Service" when they began their study in the Pastor's Class, and again when they had completed their work and were received into the fellowship as full members.

EVANGELISM THROUGH CONFIRMATION

The subject of evangelism is not a new one; but it is one on which we need clear thinking and definite action. A number of our *members* do not do anything to bring people to Baptism or *Church Membership* because they do not believe that it is necessary to serve our Lord in the fellowship of the Church. Something far more fundamental is involved than wanting *The Methodist Church* to become larger. What is involved is our conception of what constitutes being a Christian. Can we have vital Christianity without a dynamic and vital Church?

If the Christian fellowship is an extra, then obviously the thing to do is to leave the *recruiting of new members entirely to the pastor.* But if you believe that a vital and creative Christian fellowship is a necessity, then every *Methodist* should be enthusiastically involved throughout the year in securing *new members.* I may not be as sensitive as I should be; but as I go about *and see new members being received,* I do not always get the impression that the members of the congregation have eagerly come together in order to present unto God the fruits of their labors. I repeat that many of our *stewards* and other laymen are not active in securing *new members* because they do not believe that the Church is necessary. They are content with the feeling that what the world needs is more Christianity—whatever that means.

From an address by Bishop Hart of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The words in italics are the Methodist substitutes for the Episcopal terminology which spoke of "communicants," "the confirmation class," "vestrymen," etc.

FOR THIS---GOD BE THANKED

A Report on the Church School Advance

by Walter Towner, Director
General Church School Work, General Board of Education

Gloom, gloom, gloom. Newspapers full of it. Reds, inflation, crime, imminent war, and general cussedness are our daily dish of information. It's just too bad that we have to live on this sorry planet.

According to some.

But Christians have a different idea, especially the Methodists. We have looked around on the other side of things, and the view is fine. Right now we are rolling up our sleeves to handle another four great years—the Advance for Christ and His Church. We know where we are going, we like the idea, and we are on our way.

The real reason for our enthusiasm about the next four years of Advance is that we trust in God and find zest in doing His work. But there is a human reason, too. The past four years—the "Crusade for Christ" years—succeeded so gloriously that we can now flex the muscles we developed in that task and lay hold on the new job with satisfaction. A look at some of the successes of the Crusade can serve as a tonic.

Let's Take That Look!

Who can measure the good that was accomplished by the steady push of Methodist insistence that the New World Order should be Christian? No one need tell us that raising 27 million dollars in a hurry to help desperate people was a perfectly grand thing. And do you remember this—"Evangelism so intelligently conceived and so enthusiastically carried out that Methodism's share of the responsibility for bringing the world to Christ shall be gloriously advanced"? Talk about success! We added more than a million to the active rolls in about a year. Then there was the Year of Stewardship with emphasis not only on giving our money, but also giving ourselves. And finally the Church School Year—"to increase church school membership and attendance in order that the people may learn of Christ and His way, and follow Him." What actually happened in our church schools during those four years when the whole Church was helping? The answer can make glad the hearts of church leaders everywhere.

Gratefully we announce—

—Every Jurisdiction and every Annual Conference in five Jurisdictions shows a gain in church school membership, ranging up to as much as 48%.

—We are now 5,643,436 strong as a church school, a net gain of 864,090 (18%) for the four years.

—attendance gained even more (19%). And that's healthy!

—two-thirds of a million persons who are now members of the church school joined the church on profession of faith during the Crusade.

Methodist church schools are now growing faster than the population. During the years 1945-1948 while the population of the U. S. A. was increasing 10%, the Methodist church school membership increased 18%, and the fact that average attendance increased 19% during the same period dispels any thought that the Crusade merely added names to the church school roll.

Even with 14 of the 1948 Fall conferences still to report, we now know that the gain in church school membership far surpasses the gain in church membership during the Crusade years. The net gain in church membership was about 8% as compared with 18% net, for the church school.

Year after year, the measure of our concern as a church for the people of the world is our giving through World Service and Conference Benevolences. The annual church school offering for this purpose increased during the Crusade from $1,653,252 in 1944 to $2,558,842 in 1948, an increase of $905,590 or 55%. In 1944 the church schools raised for all purposes a total of $8,583,697 and in 1948 the amount was $14,637,333. In 1945 we had 37,123 church schools (no 1944 figures available on this item) and in 1948 we had 38,150.

The Real Glory

But the great success of the Crusade in the church school is not found in figures. If you are interested in what has really been the glory of the thing you will find it in the lives of men, women, and children, in the added zeal of teachers, the deeper devotion of pastors. You will find it, too, in the superb way in which the church school got under the load of each phase of the Crusade, forgetting itself and working co-operatively in a common cause. Just as others contributed to its success, so it entered into the gains in each part of the four years' work.

All who have worked in the Crusade have reason to be both proud and grateful for the splendid gains that have been made. We look forward to even greater gains during the coming four years. The Church-wide emphasis on increasing church school membership and attendance, and on winning church school members to Christ and church membership, is to continue unabated. This will be part of the new Advance for Christ and His Church.

FOR MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

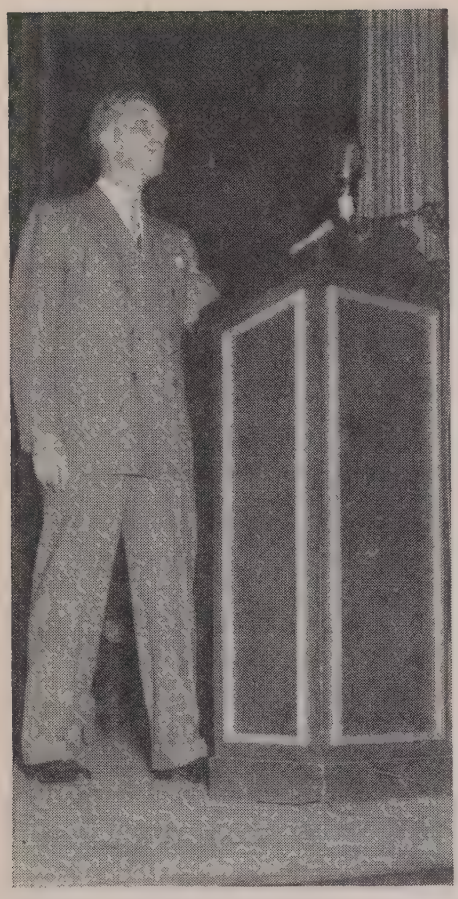
Your Church and You, by Roy H. Short
(for boys and girls)
15¢ each—$1.50 per dozen

My Church Book, by Mary Skinner
(A gift book for boys and girls)
Paper: 30¢ each—$3.00 per dozen
Cloth: 65¢ each—$6.50 per dozen

At the Door of the Church, by Lucius H. Bugbee
(for youth)
Minister's Manual, $1.00
Pupil's Manual, 25¢

I Joined the Church, by Karl Quimby
(for adults)
20¢ each—$2.00 per dozen

Order from
THE METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE



Let the Preacher Preach

by Newton M. Coughenour, Pastor
Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey

The church having a "Preacher" for its minister is a fortunate church today. One outstanding present need of the Protestant Church is the need for preachers of intellectual acumen, passionate feelings, and dynamic expression to properly present the important doctrines of the authority of the Scriptures, justification by faith, and the priesthood of all believers. Methodism particularly needs to be on its guard lest it lose its power to produce "preachers" of heart and mind to lead our great Church.

Congregations are hungry for the "Bread of Life" today! The laity are not finding satisfaction for their souls' longing in literature, economics, philosophy, or politics. The Church has the answer to the world's dilemma. It has the remedy for man's ills. But "spiritual giants" are needed in the pulpits of Methodism and Protestantism to tell it.

I am unable to agree with the clergymen who overemphasize the priestly office of the ministry to the neglect of the prophetic office. Preaching is our heritage! Preaching is our life! How unfitted for present-day leadership is the minister who does not have ringing in his mind the words of Paul, the Apostle, when he said, "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the Gospel!" Preaching will, by the power of the Holy Spirit, bring conviction to the sinner and to the calloused hearts of indifferent church members. But how shall they hear if there are no preachers?

People attend church for many reasons, as we all know too well. Many persons attend a particular church because it is the nearest and most accessible; others like a church's musical program; some would not think of attending a church not of their own denomination; but the churches with strong preachers in the pulpit are the ones *filled* with worshipers. This is not alone true of the large city churches, but it is also true for the medium-sized and smaller churches. I have visited many churches of all sizes and I have found wherever there is a forceful speaker in the pulpit, that church is filled Sunday after Sunday. People attend worship whenever they find a man "called of God" holding sway in the pulpit.

The minister who fails to take advantage of his opportunity to bring the great doctrines of the Church to the attention of his congregation is missing a perhaps-never-to-be-repeated opportunity to "feed hungry hearts" with the strong meat of our Scripture. The average minister with an ordinary mind, by persistent effort in research, careful selection of facts, and by possessing a deep sympathy for his fellow man, may soon be able to produce challenging, instructional and helpful messages for persons who rightfully expect to hear soul-stirring sermons from the Bible. The messages are in the Bible; it is demanded of the minister to search them out.

The Bible is the book that needs to be read by the minister today. Above all other books, prayerful eyes and hearts are required for the study of the Scriptures. There are no finer stories in all literature than the recorded experiences of ordinary men and women who have come in contact with God and His Son, Jesus Christ. If the laity cannot take time to read these wonderful stories, the minister *must* "make" time to read and digest them or he cannot say with power, "Thus saith the Lord."

To be well informed about the Bible is not to deny the use of the world's great literary masterpieces. A preacher should be acquainted with Greek, English, and American literature. He should also familiarize himself with history, philosophy, psychology, natural science, music, economics, and politics—if he expects to be a leader and present the Bible to the modern mind. Too much has the Protestant Church in the past thirty years been neglecting the "prophetic message" for the "social gospel." Let the minister "preach" the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the modern mind will listen to the word of God.

Religious truth should be proclaimed from the "housetops" today. The popular mind desires to know the truth that makes one free. Man often turns to the church after he has tried everything else and has found no deep satisfaction. How tragic if there is a church with no prophet in the pulpit when the seeker comes to hear the word of God!

The preacher must also help to establish the believer in his religious growth. He must be able to lead the listener to "higher ground." How shameful if the Shepherd does not know the path himself! It is the "blind leading the blind." Without a great religious experience no person will be able to do a great service for his God. Let the preacher be filled with the Holy Spirit and then he can say, "I know him whom I have believed." This may require of the minister a re-examination of his "calling" and a new estimate of the preaching office; but the hours spent in prayer and self-examination show splendid results in sermons that are reassuring of God's mercy toward His children.

The modern mind is perplexed in its beliefs and confused in its direction for the future. It is again asking what are the great historic truths of the Protestant faith. Woe unto the minister who is not true to his calling as a preacher; woe unto the church that has lost its prophetic message; woe unto the civilization that does not have the opportunity of hearing from its spiritual leaders the inviting words of the Master, "Be thou perfect as your Father in Heaven is perfect." Methodism *has* great preachers! Let us hear them!

BLEATINGS---From the Black Sheep of the Flock

A Message to Ministers

by a lady of the laity

Miss Edith J. McLellan
La Porte, Indiana

Photo by H. Irwin

Sheep Grazing in India

Sunday, January 28th. Four above zero today, and snowdrifts five feet deep still. Yes, we've had this "old-fashioned" winter weather for quite some weeks now, and it doesn't seem to be helping our church attendance any.

"Only twelve out today," that's what the minister reported to me, for you see, being the Black Sheep of the flock I wasn't there, at least not this time. But many's the time I have been there, over the span of years—times when the minister said as he said today, "There's so few here we'll not have preaching today." Especially do I recall the terrible night, one Maundy Thursday, when then, too, there were just twelve of us present. And the minister who had braved a distance of eight miles was so outraged, and disappointed too, I suppose, by the small group, that he was rendered incapable of carrying out the service in a helpful way.

Ah, pastor, did *we* make the effort to come to church only to be told, by implication at least, that it was the absent ones of the flock who counted, and not us? It is the glory of Christianity, this belief in the worth of the individual, and yet how many times through the years have I gone home from our little country church fighting a sense of desolation because there had been "too few" of us to hold a service. Jesus had time for "only twelve."

I know, it *is* a pity for you, pastor, to spend so much time in preparation, to come such distances, and to find only twelve to preach to when you could as well be preaching to a hundred. But when you decide against preaching service, we wonder if the Bible speaks truly when it says we are of more value than sparrows. St. Francis, it seems, took time to preach even to the birds.

Some of you were very fine preachers. The things you said lived with us all through the week, and most of you knew God in a way that made us want to know Him too. Oh, if only you had gathered the few of us around the stove; and, in informal talk and prayer and song, come close to our hearts and our needs! How we would have thanked you in the deep places of our hearts! And how in the intimacy that a small group creates, our children and our youth would have caught fire from your keen vision, and dreams would have been born that would have sent feet speeding homeward with hearts aglow!

That housewife who had left many little tasks unfinished to come this day, how you might have lifted her into God's presence, renewing in her assurance that His strength would be sufficient for the demands of the week ahead! That old lady from across the way—yes, possibly she *had* come out to services as a welcome relief from the monotony of her days. But in a few swift words you could paint for her the needs of a missionary doctor and his desires for the people he is seeking to help, and she would find the drab days glorified and in intercessory prayer she would help God in His work of the Kingdom on earth.

Would that be worth your while, dear country pastor? I believe that it would. I believe that the "faithful few" is "the remnant" God has given you. You can cast it aside or, you may make of it leaven, whichever you choose.

Faithfully yours,
The Black Sheep.

BUCK HILL FALLS

The Conference Secretaries of Evangelism, and some of the Conference Board Chairmen and District Secretaries of Evangelism, met at Buck Hill Falls, Pa., the first days of December in a significant meeting.

On page 29 we give a picture of this group of leaders and an article written by one of those present.

The Conference and the District Secretaries of Evangelism are doing much for evangelism. During the next few weeks they will assist pastors and district superintendents (1) organize and make active the local church Committee on Membership and Evangelism, and (2) and assist in visitation evangelism promotion in every possible way.

WANTED:
A Book Concession IN EVERY CHURCH

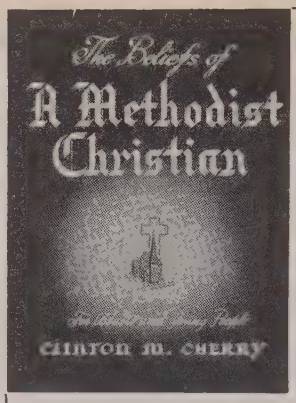
says Bishop Fred P. Corson

One of the most significant features of the Advance for Christ thus far throughout the whole Church is the movement that has been launched by Bishop Fred P. Corson in the Philadelphia Area. Bishop Corson and the twelve district superintendents of the Wyoming, New Jersey, and Philadelphia Conferences conducted 12 Advance Rallies throughout the Area and averaged reaching 1,000 people at each rally.

Bishop Corson preached on "Our Protestant Faith," at each rally and placed emphasis upon the fact that in this year of Our Faith in the Advance for Christ and His Church Methodists must become a reading people in order to be well grounded in the faith and established in the Christian life. Emphasis was placed on an informed church, and Book Tables were set up at each rally. In these rallies a total of $5,000.00 worth of books was sold.

Bishop Corson is urging that every church in his Area establish a book concession, and is requesting that TIDINGS send every pastor in his Area a letter giving information about the books that are available from TIDINGS and *The Upper Room* and how these may be ordered for the Book Tables.

Surely this is a time for every church to establish a Literature Fund and a Book Table and place such a Table in charge of one of the most active and capable persons in the church. The money secured from the sale of these books can be placed in the purchase of more books—to be sold and money used for the purchase of still more books—and thus will become as a revolving fund used to make the Methodists a reading people. The TIDINGS editor will be glad to send any pastor throughout the whole Church, upon request, the information that is being sent to the pastors in Bishop Corson's Area. What better books could be placed on these Tables at the very outset than *The Methodist Primer, A Protestant Primer, The Beliefs of a Methodist Christian* (just off the press), *The Pattern of a Church*, and *The Evangelistic Message of Protestantism*? These five books will go far toward grounding a person in the Faith and giving substance to his thought and Christian life.



The Beliefs of A Methodist Christian

96 pages

35¢ each; 10 for $3.00

In lots of 25 or more, 25¢ each

Should be in every Methodist home in this year of "Our Faith"

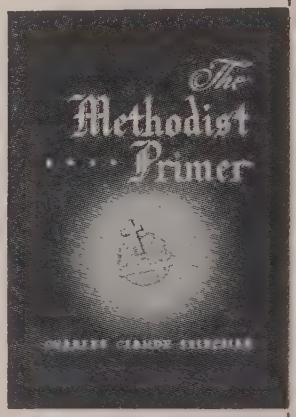
The Methodist Primer

64 pages

25¢ each; 25 for $5.00

This book has done more than any other to acquaint the rank and file of Methodists with The Methodist Church

Should be in every Methodist home



A Protestant Primer

64 pages

25¢ each; 12 for $3.00

"Just the kind of a book for ministers and laymen."

Laymen are eager to buy this book

Should be on every Book Table

The Pattern of a Church

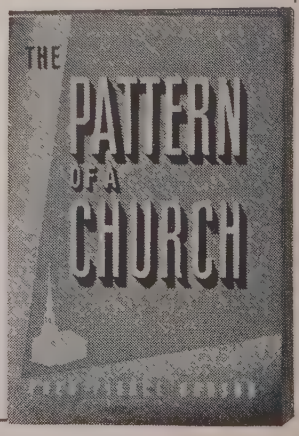
96 pages

35¢ each; 10 for $3.00

Tells where Methodism works, where Methodism serves, whom Methodism wants, when Methodism speaks, what Methodism stands for, and why Methodism lives.

For discerning ministers and laymen

TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 4, Tenn.



During Lent
A CITY-WIDE CHURCH ADVANCE

by Claude W. Cooper, Pastor
First Methodist Church, Muscatine, Iowa

It is my conviction that the church is failing to minister to many persons in its own membership because they do not come to church services regularly. With the purpose of developing regular church attendance on the part of the familes of the church this campaign was launched.

The first step was to get the ministers of the city thoroughly committed to a city-wide program. As soon as the Ministerial Association decided upon this course of action a special committee of the Association was appointed to plan details of the program. The name finally chosen was "City-Wide Church Advance." Subcommittees were appointed for newspaper advertising, newspaper publicity, posters, contacts with service clubs, and public schools. It was the purpose to assign each minister to the committee in which he was most interested.

Two hundred posters were distributed announcing the City-Wide Church Advance throughout the city. The Chamber of Commerce gave two full-page advertisements about the Advance during the campaign. Each week a different minister wrote a short message for the church page of the newspaper. This feature has continued after the Advance was over under the direction of the Ministerial Association.

The Association already had a radio committee which scheduled one minister each Sunday morning for a thirty-minute broadcast over the local radio station. At the time of the Advance a five-minute "Thought for the Day" was added each weekday morning. This feature has continued regularly since then.

A count of church and Sunday school attendance was taken each week and the total results were published in the newspaper story each Monday. Some money was spent on newspaper advertising and some for spot announcements over the radio at the beginning of the campaign.

The churches that did nothing more did not benefit much in increased attendance and interest, but those that put on a Lenten Program of advance in their own churches had remarkable results. The combined city-wide publicity gave great impetus to the local church program.

The First Baptist Church divided the membership into units of twelve—six active members and six inactive members. The active ones took turns working on the so-called dead or inactive ones. The results were surprising. The Evangelical Church used the Nelson Attendance Plan with very good results.

The Unit System became the foundation of our program at First Methodist. The constituency was divided into twelve districts with one man the captain in charge. Each captain had seven or eight women as visitors. Each visitor had seven families upon whom he was to call. The Lay Leader was the director of the Unit System, and he and the pastor worked out the details of the organization. A free dinner was served for the entire group of visitors, paid for by the Official Board. At the dinner instructions were given to the visitors.

A schedule of special Sundays and of sermon topics was the first literature that the visitors distributed. The music director and the minister planned to make each Sunday service as significant as possible. It was a strategic opportunity to preach the Gospel messages.

We named the Sundays, in order, as follows: Roll Call Sunday, Scout Sunday, Family Day, Laymen's Sunday, Neighbor's Day, Church School Advance, Enlistment Sunday, Palm Sunday, and Easter Sunday.

The largest attendance was present on Roll Call Day and Enlistment Day, with the exception of Easter. Since an actual count of attendance is made every Sunday we were able to know that our attendance at the Sunday morning worship service nearly doubled before the Advance was over. Increased attendance was reflected in the church school as well. Our Sunday school went over the 500 mark for the first time in years. Attendance at both church and Sunday school has remained consistently higher since the Advance than before. This would seem to indicate that church-going is somewhat of a habit and that if the habit can be established, it will generally continue. Incidentally we had a very large Easter ingathering also.

As people came to the church they contributed more freely, and the increased offerings more than met the extra expenses involved. The sentiment among our Ministerial Association is that this is the kind of a program that we ought to have again.

Mr. Albert W. Cliffe, layman of Philadelphia, Pa., says: "There ought to be a *See You in Church Sunday* sticker in the window of every Methodist home and on every Methodist car every day during Lent."

Laymen realize the value of "See You in Church Sunday" materials. Not only do they bring people to church, but they also pay for themselves in the extra money on the offering plate.

Mail a "Your Church Calls You" card to every home, and stickers.

Observe the available materials in the folder which is included with this issue. Order from TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 4, Tenn.

Instead of closing them down by using our laymen we have opened wider

OUR TINY CHURCHES

Jolly B. Harper, District Superintendent
Alexandria, Louisiana

Methodism is growing in this area. Two new congregations have been formed, and six churches have been reopened after being closed from one to seven years. All of this has resulted without a single new preacher in the Alexandria District, Louisiana Conference. The preachers of this district have shown a fine spirit in going and doing more than anyone has a right to expect them to do. In some instances they have held four or five services a Sunday.

In spite of this splendid spirit, there were little churches that still could not be saved. As a result, they had grown weaker and weaker and it seemed that all we could do was to close them down. However, we decided to reverse this by simply opening them wider.

In our territory, like in most areas, there are splendid consecrated laymen who are willing to do what they can. Many of them are talented; they can teach classes and talk to church and secular groups. Moreover most of them came from the country and hate to see the old country church go down.

As district superintendent, I called a group of such men together at the district parsonage and confronted them with the problem. To a man they responded. A calendar was worked out for each man and each church. In working out this schedule and program of work for these men, we had to keep in mind the fact that they were active in their local churches and that we could not take them away too long or often. That the program of their churches might not suffer, we discussed the situation with the pastors of these men. The result was that each layman involved can go once or twice a month, and not only are they helpful to the small churches but they themselves are benefitted spiritually and the reaction is wholesome.

Two Schedules

We are experimenting with two types of schedules in these small churches. One calls for church services every other Sunday, both morning and night. The other calls for a service every Sunday, but one Sunday in the morning and the next Sunday in the evening. We are studying the results to see which schedule is better.

These churches must have the Sacraments also, and so we are asking each of our ordained ministers to hold one service every two months in a small church. This makes it possible for an ordained minister to be in each church once a month, and the Communion and Baptism can be administered. While these ministers are out of their pulpits, we supply them with lay speakers, if they need us to do that for them. The district superintendent fits into the schedule as needed.

These small churches pay the Connectional items of the budget, but these laymen have declined any remuneration for themselves. This is allowing the churches to do some repairs on their buildings which needed to be done. We urge them to give just as generously as if they had a minister to support. In the course of time they will have, and should be developing the habit of contributing.

Supervision

The plan for supervision is to place one or more of these small outpost churches under a Quarterly Conference which is stable. Any layman who holds services in these churches and desires an exhorter's license for prestige may have it.

We realize that the plan is incomplete in a very important part, pastoral visitation. We are planning to take care of this phase by inviting men to come together—men who would never stand in a pulpit and preach, or speak, but who are consecrated and who will give at least a day or a night to visit in a community in the name of the Church. A schedule of visitation might thus be worked out just as the preaching schedule, thereby rounding out the ministry of the Church to these neglected areas.

This lay ministry is being rendered in churches that are quite rural and are able to pay only about one hundred and fifty dollars a year. It would be hard to put together enough of these churches on a single circuit. A minister could only eke out an existence, and possibly drop in once a month at some undesirable time. Under these laymen, these churches are having their best days, for these laymen are choice men, able, consecrated, and willing.

Mt. Tabor Methodist Church in southwestern part of Warren County, Iowa. This church was closed for some eight or ten years, until it became a part of the Group Ministry operated from Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa. Gene W. Carter is Director of this Group Ministry. See article in October, 1948 *Shepherds*.

PROGRAM AND GOALS

OF THE CENTRAL JURISDICTION

by J. W. Golden, Associate Secretary

We accept and thank God for the quadrennial program of The Methodist Church in the "Advance for Christ and His Church," during which time we will seriously study and urgently emphasize (1) Our Faith, (2) Our Church, (3) Our Ministry, and (4) Our Mission—and our work as laborers with Christ on reaching our share of the goal of:

2,000,000	On profession of faith
500,000	Trained lay workers
100,000	Trained young people
2,500	Established or reopened churches

Preparatory Work

We are now in the process of training our increased number of workers in the Conference, district, and local church institutes for the successful carrying out of the program, and the reaching of the desired goals.

Some Definite Aims

In our program of work there will be certain aims, among which we might name:

1. To inaugurate and promote Church Loyalty Campaigns;
2. To find non-resident members;
3. To reach inactive members, and to restore and inspire them to active Christian service;
4. A house-to-house survey in every community to find and enlist prospective members;
5. To select, train, and send out workers, two by two, as evangelistic teams, to win them for Christ and His Church;
6. To increase our church school enrollment and attendance; and
7. To develop Christian families in practical Christian living.

Retreat or Prayer Clinics

We recommend district, subdistrict, local church, and group prayer clinics, and also family devotions and Bible study to deepen and enrich the spiritual life of ministers and laymen. There should be sermons and study on all aspects of our faith, and intercessory prayers should be made for a great harvest of souls, and for fellowship and brotherhood.

In Every Church

There should be in every church organized classes of children, young people, and adults for training in church membership and the Christian life. In this training we recommend the use of membership manuals by W. K. Anderson, (Manual for Pastors); by Roy H. Short (Manual for Children); by James S. Chubb (Manual for Young People); and Karl Quimby's (Manual for Adults). These are available from The Methodist Publishing House. Likewise, there should be used *The Methodist Primer,* by Selecman, and *A Protestant Primer,* by Seidenspinner. These are available from The Methodist Publishing House or from TIDINGS.

Intensive visitation evangelism should be held in every local church community by the beginning of Lent.

Not later than Passion Week, preaching missions and revivals should begin, with district ministerial teamwork engaged in extensively from Easter to Pentecost. Moreover, there should be continuous visitation, promoted by an active local church committee on membership and evangelism.

We recommend special evangelistic services on Sunday evenings and invitations to Christian discipleship at every worship service.

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he send forth workers."

CONFESSION OF FAITH—RESULTS AND GOALS

In February SHEPHERDS we gave the number received on confession of faith in 1948 and the goal set by the General Conference for 1949 (in order to win 400,000 in the whole Church) for five Jurisdictions. Now all the Annual Conferences for the Central Jurisdiction have been held, and the reports are in. This completes the list.

The Central Jurisdiction did a remarkable job in winning persons on confession of faith during the Year of Evangelism and we confidently believe, that under the leadership of the district superintendents and pastors, it will repeat the fine job this year.

Annual Conference	Active Members 1947	Received Confession of Faith 1948	Goal Confession of Faith 1949
Atlanta	12,379	421	728
Central Alabama	8,410	518	595
Central West	9,005	244	530
Delaware	**29,511**	**1,847**	**1,736**
East Tennessee	4,358	202	256
Florida	3,817	196	225
Lexington	**21,646**	**1,436**	**1,273**
Louisiana	**11,706**	**800**	**689**
Mississippi	15,693	680	923
North Carolina	11,043	350	650
Savannah	5,664	274	333
South Carolina	40,850	2,189	2,403
South Florida	**3,536**	**291**	**208**
Southwest	4,069	201	239
Tennessee	5,943	156	350
Texas	14,738	700	867
Upper Mississippi	14,267	618	839
Washington	32,838	1,912	1,932
West Texas	13,736	604	808

Concerning J. E. A. Bucke

A SHEPHERD IN PENNSYLVANIA

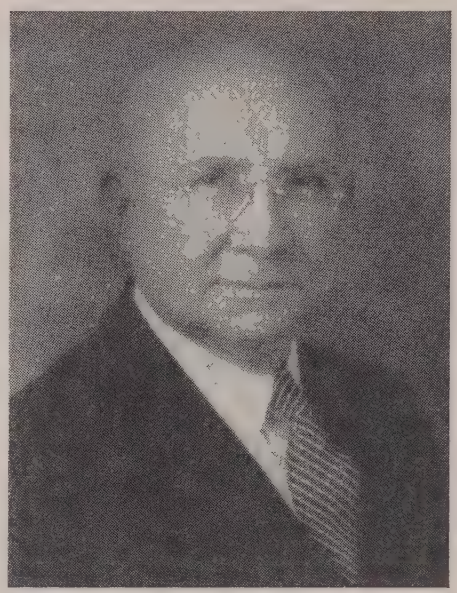
An article we requested of

Emory Stevens Bucke
Editor, Zion's Herald, Boston, Mass.

Admitting a strong prejudice in favor of the man about whom I have been asked to write, I cherish this unusual opportunity to tell other preachers about what my preacher-dad has accomplished as a shepherd in Pennsylvania.

My father's name is Jacob Edward Ambrose Bucke. With full regard for practicality, and perhaps a slight deference to the oddity of such a long list of names gleaned from uncles who were favorites with his parents, Father has always signed himself as "J. E. A. Bucke." He was born on a farm in Perry County north of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. His father was a schoolmaster, carpenter, and farmer, and died while Dad was still young, leaving a remarkable widow to bring up five sons and three daughters. After completing country school education and working hard on the farm, Dad and his younger brother set out to be educated for teaching and entered the Lock Haven Normal School which now bears the more dignified title of State Teachers College. Two of the older brothers completed their schooling and earned their Ph.D's in education. One brother became a master draftsman. During Dad's schooling he worked at a shoe factory in Harrisburg and there joined the Methodist Church which years later he was to serve; the pastor of that Harrisburg church who became Dad's first Methodist father was the Rev. Emory M. Stevens, the man for whom I am named.

After completing Lock Haven Normal School and Juniata College, Dad married Linnie Mae Coulter. She was the greatest human influence in his life. She was a cultured, thoroughly Victorian girl with a strong Lutheran tradition of churchmanship. Her beauty and her dignity were never made to suffer by lack of money nor by the hard work. Dad was pretty poor at that point. He entered Drew University the year after they were married and went to school in the caboose of a freight train to save car fare. His brother-in-law made the necessary train reservations for that distinctive accommodation! Dad got a



student appointment at Oldwick, New Jersey, and his cash salary was $225.00 per year. Mother did not allow herself to look poor or invite the charitable interests of their better-salaried parishioners. She presided over that parsonage, as she did over all that were to follow, with a loving dignity. While she was understanding of those who differed with her, she held tenaciously to her Pauline theology through the seventy years of her queenly life.

At Oldwick my sister Elizabeth was born. She now practices medicine in Wilmington, Delaware, and carries on not only the physical image of Mother, but also the loving and devoted service to The Methodist Church. After Drew days, Dad went to his first appointment in the Central Pennsylvania Conference; it was Buckhorn, Pennsylvania, and the cash salary there was $550.00 per year. It was Dad's only move where he doubled his salary. When his abilities were recognized a bit later, he was sent to Sunbury to organize and build the Catawissa Avenue Church, and there my brother Perry was born. Perry is now the pastor of the First Methodist Church in Tyrone, Pennsylvania. After Sunbury came Newberry Church in Williamsport, and I believe that I still hold the record of being the only child born in that parsonage. Soon after my birth, however, they built a new parsonage and a large educational unit for the church. Dad worked hard to raise that money, but by entertaining the Annual Conference and stirring up increased membership and activity, the church made great steps ahead even though we were in the midst of the first world war.

The Shepherd Knows His Sheep

After one year at Hazelton, Dad was appointed by Bishop William F. McDowell to be superintendent of the Sunbury District. It was during this period that I began to understand Dad's shepherding. Sixty-six churches were visited regularly by my father and I think that during those years I visited almost all of them with him. He was more important than a bishop to me in those quarterly conferences, although he never showed signs of pontification. There were few men who did not like Dad—I remember how shocked I was to discover that one disgruntled preacher called him "Jake Bucke—Bishop McDowell's boot licker!" Dad was a brother minister when he visited those churches and he shared in their work as an interested party and not as a disinterested bystander. He was carrying by this time not only my sister's college and medical school bills, but Perry had also entered college; yet because of Dad's insistence on tithing, he always found some way of making financial contributions to the needy churches on his district. Naturally in those travels I heard him preach the same sermon time and time again, but always liked them, and when I first entered the pulpit to preach, I tried to use his sermon entitled "We Are Laborers Together With God."

After serving the Sunbury District, he was sent to Stevens Memorial Church in Harrisburg. This was the church that he had joined while a shoe-factory worker thirty-two years before. It was a large church and since it was in the middle of the depression years, there was no secretary or assistant min-

ister to help. With 1700 members living throughout a wide city area, Dad carried on that work with endless energy. He called constantly and when he stood up to preach, he appeared as a shepherd who knew his sheep well. I remember those sermons for they were always timely discussions of eternal things. Two reasons account for his good sermons, I think: he has always been a student and he has always been a pastor. During his busiest years he always took time to go to summer school to "get freshened up." His study hours were never conventional and he has not known what regular office hours are. He has always kept at his reading and has as large a library as perhaps any man in the ministry. Calling on his parishioners regularly, he has always known what people needed from his sermons. His copious notes have formed the basis of extemporary preaching and while he has written full manuscripts only a few times, I think that it would be hard to find much duplication in either subject matter or in stock phrases. I have seen him rise to eloquent heights of oratory—yet no one would call him an oratorical type of preacher; he always appeared as the local shepherd of the flock leading his people into fresh pastures of spiritual nourishment.

Honors and Sorrow

Shortly after Dickinson College gave him an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity, I went with him when he was to preach at a neighboring church. Unknown to him, I carried the Dickinson diploma along to show it to the people. I was very proud of my father's new honor and wanted people to call him Dr. Bucke. I think Dad was proud too, but he continued to have himself announced as J. E. A. Bucke! Since those days whenever I have heard a few ministers refer to themselves as Dr. So-and-So, I have come to understand why Father did not want to parade his dignity. We did get him dressed up with his hood several times, for he has been a popular baccalaureate preacher: my class elected him to give the sermon when we graduated from high school; later other high school classes asked him to do the same thing. Lock Haven State Teachers College had him preach its baccalaureate on both his fortieth and fiftieth graduation anniversary from that school. I think that he enjoyed wearing his hood on those occasions, but there are no signs of wear on its velvet from overexposure! Some people even call him "Uncle Jake," and you simply can't associate a D.D. with that.

After Stevens Memorial he went to a short pastorate at Lock Haven, and there two tragedies occurred: a disastrous flood swept the city, and Dad had his first serious illness. I left Boston University School of Theology for a semester to go home and be Dad's assistant. While my work as assistant pastor was official according to the *Discipline,* my salary was paid by my father. I will always be glad that my first official contact with The Methodist

Church was under the direction of my father. From Lock Haven he went to Shamokin and with his health completely restored he led in a tremendous task of defeating a terrible debt that had been depressing that church for many years. Mother became very ill after a few years, and they asked for a lighter appointment. They were sent to Newport, and soon after their arrival Mother died. With every moment of his ministerial life shared with Mother, and a devotion that was unique to bind them heart to heart during all those years of service, it might have been natural for Dad to break down in his efforts as a shepherd. The most glorious testimony to the power of the Christian faith that I think he has given to anybody has been the thoroughness of his devotion to the kingdom of God since that heartbreaking loss. He has done his weeping where it will not hurt others and has given of his best strength and devotion to his high calling as a shepherd.

His Sons in the Gospel

Dad continued his pastorate at Newport until the age law made his retirement necessary last spring. The constant obsession that had been his during all of his pastorates was to usher young people into Christian service. His honors as a 32nd degree Mason, a Rotarian, and those previously mentioned all add up to a very small thing in comparison to his accomplishment as a sponsor of Christian ministers. He cultivated friendships with a few wealthy people during his ministry and got their financial help in putting young people through college—even now a senior in one of our colleges is being helped by money Dad has raised in this way.

When the day came last spring when Dad was to retire, the usual custom was followed and the men were to be granted that relation were presented to the conference for their valedictory address. Dad did not make a speech but instead presented his boys in the ministry: twenty-two men, including his own two sons, made up that list. How many other men were inspired to give their lives to full-time service in the church because of his ministry I do not know, but in looking over the list of names known to my father I know of at least three additional Methodists who claim to be indebted to Dad for influencing their decisions to enter the ministry. His own sons are proud of their father and yet know that this recruiting was never done under emotional pressure. He inspired those of us who are on his list of "boys in the ministry" because of his great breadth of understanding and his ability to encourage us to use our talents for this noble profession. Naturally we imitate him! Nothing makes this preacher more proud than to have some person say that he talks and acts like his father—but that is not Dad's idea! He wants his boys in the ministry to learn to know well our Father who is in heaven, and to do His will on earth.

The way of the shepherd from Pennsylvania has not been glamorous. He has served on all of the major boards of his Annual Conference, and has been chairman of his Conference Board of Evangelism for the past eight years, but he has never been elected to the General Conference, thought of as a possible bishop, or in any way connected with the political up-grading within the Church. Honors have come to him, but the ones he likes best are those coming from the areas where he does his best work: the pastorate. He has taken a supply appointment now at Patton and still continues his shepherding. He will probably be embarrassed by this article and will write me one of his rare letters of "special admonition." But it is with an honest pride and a grateful heart that I thus present him.

Boy Scouts Deliver *The Upper Room* at Catawissi, Pennsylvania

"Permit me to say that one of the finest factors in our work here has been the plan of distributing *The Upper Room* to every home in our parish. We have tied the distribution into another program—namely, the Boy Scouts. Some of the Scouts are taking work leading to the 'God and Country Award.' In order to qualify for this award they must render an established amount of hours work for the church. The distribution of *The Upper Room* has been one of their projects.

"We are very certain that with this general distribution of *The Upper Room* in the homes of the parish there has been a more general interest in the spiritual emphasis of the work. We do not need to 'sell' *The Upper Room,* because it is its own recommendation."—*Lawrence W. Likens,* Pastor.

THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
PHOENIX, N. Y.

Dear Friends of The Upper Room:

Christ can change us! That fact alone is responsible for the continuation of Christianity. Governments and social organizations vary but the love of Christ endures. Why? Because Christ can change us!

Desperation, loneliness, and guilt are age-old personal problems. In every generation, Jesus has proven that He can replace sadness with hope, remove guilt, and make friendly the friendless. He sets the aimless on a sure path, and gives superhuman wisdom to faltering minds. Other things satisfy some of the time. Only Jesus satisfies forever. This is the reason why the changes of time have not removed men's love for Christ. He can change us!

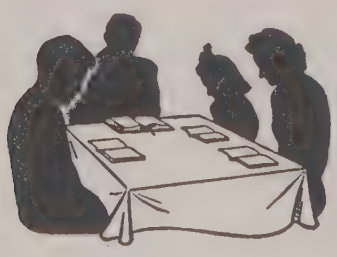
Doctors correct ills. Teachers remove ignorance. Good friends lighten sorrows. We "see" the doctor, attend the teacher's class, or talk with friends. In each case, we must commune with our helpers before help comes. So, too, we commune with Christ before He changes us. We "see" Him, attend Him, and talk with Him. This, of course, is prayer.

We send The Upper Room with faith that Christ will satisfy your deepest personal needs through prayer. By its use your loved ones will have the advantage of Christ's help. My prayer for each of you as I address these envelopes and paste these stamps is that you may be strengthened with might by His spirit in the inner man. God bless you all.

Affectionately,

A. A. Childs

A. A. Childs, Pastor



FAITH IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

To Meet the Need of A GROWING PERSONALITY

A District Superintendent Gives Testimony

Dear Friends:

When the first issue of *The Upper Room* came to our home for April, 1935, we used the very first devotional service at our breakfast table on April 1 of that year. At that time our son was eleven years of age and our daughter was not yet three.

We have not missed a single issue or a single devotion since that date, if any of us was at home at the time for breakfast. From the very first our son took his turn in reading the devotional from *The Upper Room,* and as soon as our daughter was able to read, she insisted on having her turn. At first, she would stand either by her mother or me and we would help her with any word that she could not read.

We feel that the use of *The Upper Room* before breakfast each day has been an invaluable spiritual benediction and food for each member of our family.

Our son is now in his first year as a pastor, and he continues to use *The Upper Room* and enthusiastically promotes its distribution in his church. Our daughter is still at home and, as a sixteen-year-old girl, takes her turn as we use *The Upper Room* each morning.

Most heartily do I recommend the use of *The Upper Room* for the entire family. Although there occasionally are words and ideas that cannot be understood by children, this same criticism could be made of any great hymn or any religious service. Religion and the spiritual life that can be wholly understood can never meet the need of a person with a growing personality and religious experience.

Sincerely yours,
Edgar H. Nease
Charlotte, N. C.

ALCOHOL AND I Have Walked Hand in Hand

by a Woman, Member of Alcoholics Anonymous

A remarkable letter written to the author of a daily meditation and forwarded in turn to *The Upper Room*

Dear Friend:

It may seem very odd to you that I, especially I, should run across a devotional in our *Upper Room* written by an old schoolmate. For I am sure that you are aware that alcohol and I have walked hand in hand, as it were, for some time.

That is, we did so up until two years ago next month. Then through the help of God and the prayers and efforts of many who loved me, I found Alcoholics Anonymous and have since found much pleasure and loveliness in a life that I had heretofore believed full of nothing but bitterness and hateful people.

I don't know if you know anything of A. A. or not, but we turn to *The Upper Room* for our daily meditation and find it a great inspiration and help toward another twenty-four hours of sobriety and fruitful living.

It was certainly gratifying on November 13, 1948, to read and study the "Day's Backbone" as I sometimes put it, and to find at the bottom of the page the name of one who I know has been a great help and inspiration to all who knew him.

Thanks for another step to Freedom and Happiness, and I do hope that God's richest blessings rest with you, Katherine, and the children.

Sincerely, MHS.

EDITOR'S NOTE—It is of interest that many chapters of Alcoholics Anonymous distribute and/or recommend *The Upper Room* to its members. It would be possible to moralize on this, but we are content to let the letter speak for itself.

Sermons by NEW BISHOPS

January
Gerald H. Kennedy—The Virtue of Humility
February
Glenn R. Phillips—Where Something Happens
March
Lloyd C. Wicke—Ceiling Unlimited

The Upper Room Pulpit brings a full measure of sermon suggestion and ideas. The preacher will find it at once a wellspring of fresh approaches to his pulpit work and a springboard that will help him launch the fruits of his own study and meditation into form for delivery.

The Upper Room Pulpit

J. MANNING POTTS, Editor

Subscriptions: In the United States and Canada, $1.50 per year. Other countries, $2.00.

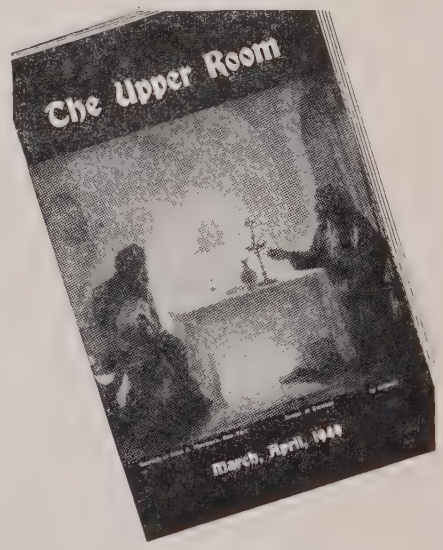
The Upper Room Pulpit 1908 Grand Ave. Nashville 4, Tennessee

Braille

The Upper Room is published in Braille (Grade 1½). It is available by yearly subscription for two dollars per year. Friends contributing to The Braille Fund make it possible to fill requests from those who do not have the money.
Send subscriptions or contributions to

THE UPPER ROOM

1908 Grand Ave. Nashville 4, Tenn.



You, too, Can Experience HIS PRESENCE

You can make this Lenten and Easter season a time of spiritual advance for yourself and for your loved ones. You can give Easter a meaning that will go with you throughout life.

Alone, or within your family circle, give some time each day to Bible reading, prayer and meditation. THE UPPER ROOM, the world's most widely used devotional guide, will help you.

Get a copy of the March-April issue, which includes the whole Lenten season. Use it each day in company with thousands the world over. Make this Easter important!

Published Bi-monthly. Individual subscriptions, two years to one address or two one-year subscriptions, $1.00. Ten or more copies of one issue to one address, 5 cents per copy. Distributed in 50,000 churches. Order from

THE UPPER ROOM

1908 Grand Ave. Nashville 4, Tenn.

METHODIST GAINS LAST QUADRENNIUM

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY JURISDICTIONS

	1943	*1947*	*Increase*	*Per Cent of Increase*
C	330,000	335,843	5,843	1.77
NE	1,680,033	1,780,003	99,970	5.95
NC	1,921,369	2,045,352	123,983	6.45
SE	2,145,996	2,331,048	185,052	8.62
SC	1,489,075	1,622,284	133,109	8.94
W	388,012	453,192	65,180	16.80
Total	7,955,085	8,567,772	612,687	7.70

What Will It Be This Quadrennium?

YOU WILL HELP DECIDE

MORE THAN 1,650 DECISIONS

The Omaha (Nebraska) Council of Churches held an interdenominational visitation evangelism campaign under the leadership of Dr. Guy H. Black. The number of decisions for the Christian life and for church membership reported by 55 of the 74 cooperating churches was 1,650. Of these, 767 were first decisions for Christ and 883 were transfers of church membership.

Largest number of decisions secured by individual churches include Dundee Presbyterian, 145; Hanscom Park Methodist, 114; Broadway Methodist, Council Bluffs, 74; Dodge Memorial Congregational, Council Bluffs, 73; Pilgrim Congregational, 56; Epworth Methodist, Council Bluffs, 45; and First Baptist, 40.

When these reports were compiled there was strong evidence that in some churches the crest of results was yet to be reached.

Let every city, every circuit, every district, every church, hold visitation evangelism campaigns for Christ and His Church before Easter. "Of such is the Kingdom of heaven."

1948

METHODIST MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCES

	1948	Increase	Decrease
Total Full Members	8,651,062	83,290	
Preparatory Members	592,675	70,504	
Received on Confession and from P. M.	283,136		5,664
Received by Transfer	297,189		12,166
Removed by Death	71,610		2,232
Removed by Transfer	376,236	13,531	
Full Members Active	7,119,630	24,174	
Full Members Inactive	1,531,432	59,116	
Church School Enrollment	5,655,806	312,360	
Average Attendance	2,819,041	48,804	
Preaching Places	40,397	76	
Pastoral Charges	21,826	223	
Total Over-All Giving	$196,435,168	$32,296,711	
World Service and Conference Benevolences	11,585,049	1,029,466	
Other Benevolences	16,540,256	1,060,307	

Bulletins in Rural Churches

A number of rural pastors are issuing excellent parish bulletins, usually monthly, in such way as to cover the work of the whole circuit in a single bulletin. They find that the bulletin is a great source of information and inspiration to their members, greatly facilitating the work of the pastor and aiding the work of the church.

An example of such bulletins is the eight-page monthly "Parish Visitor" issued by Burton C. Bastuscheck, pastor of a four-point circuit with headquarters at McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania, in the Central Pennsylvania Conference. Rural pastors may obtain a sample copy from him on request.

Above and below: Pictures taken at two of the annual Parish Day get-togethers and picnics of the Harrison County (Mo.) Larger Parish.

Full-Time Workers

The three full-time workers of the Mississippi Conference Board of Evangelism last year reported that they had conducted 115 charge and city-wide surveys, 7 schools of visitation evangelism, 37 preaching missions and revivals, organized 8 church schools, organized 5 new churches, received 631 persons on profession of faith and 272 by transfer, and sponsored a conference-wide youth camp in which many people accepted Christ as their Savior and volunteered for full-time Christian service.

This Annual Conference for this year has two full-time workers, R. M. Matheny, Director of Evangelism, and Roy Wolfe, Rural Evangelist.

NOW READY

New Quarterly Conference Record Blanks

The statistics of The Methodist Church are gathered by the Statistical Office from reports prepared by Annual Conference statisticians and treasurers. The facts and figures concerning the work of each local church and charge are supplied the Annual Conference statistician and treasurer by each pastor in his report to Annual Conference. The pastor gathers much of the information for his annual report from the reports made by the officers of his church and church school to the Quarterly Conference. If these reports are complete and accurate and the blanks used are uniform, the pastor can prepare a complete and accurate report on the work of the church or charge for the conference year. Also, the district superintendent can keep an accurate and complete record of the work of the entire district for which he is responsible.

Uniform records are necessary in order to obtain the desired information and facts about each church in Methodism and The Methodist Church as a whole. Therefore, the General Conference appointed a commission to prepare and edit all official statistical blanks and record forms and record books for use in The Methodist Church. Their use is required by the *Discipline*.

The official Quarterly Conference Record System, prepared and edited by the Commission on Records, Forms, and Statistical Blanks, is designed to record the minutes and proceedings of each Quarterly Conference and the work of the local church as reported by the pastor and officers of the church and church school. If each officer makes his report as required, it will not work a hardship on the recording steward and the pastor, and a complete record of the work of the church will be the result.

The Quarterly Conference Record System is composed of twelve different printed report blanks, loose-leaf paper, and a loose-leaf binder, as listed below —all available separately or in two assortments. Each report blank is printed on a 16-lb. bond, trimmed 8½x11 inches and punched to fit a standard three-ring binder.

WHAT TO ORDER

Charges holding four Quarterly Conferences a year. Order QC-1, Quarterly Conference Record Book Sheets, $2.25, from your Publishing House. This packet contains a supply of all necessary Roll and Record blanks and Minutes of the Quarterly Conferences, 24 sheets of extra paper, and instructions for a complete one-year record.

Order also QC-50, Quarterly Conference Binder, $1.95, from the Publishing House. This is a well-made three-ring loose-leaf binder with one-inch rings for the Quarterly Conference Record Sheets and the binder is stamped "Official Quarterly Conference Record, The Methodist Church." This should be ordered at once unless you are going to use a binder that you already have on hand, or a substitute binder.

Charges holding two Quarterly Conferences a year. Order QC-2, Quarterly Conference Record Book Sheets. This packet contains what a charge will need that holds two Quarterly Conferences a year. It contains all blanks and forms that will be necessary. $1.75, from the Publishing House.

Also order QC-50, Quarterly Conference Record Binder. This is described above. $1.95, from the Publishing House.

If churches order the above they will have all necessary blanks and forms for the Quarterly Conference Roll and Record of Attendance, the Minutes of the Adjourned Session, Minutes of a Called Session, blank paper for Quarterly Conference Reports, Board of Trustees Annual Report, Annual Report of the President of the Woman's Society for Christian Service, the Pastor's Report to the Quarterly Conference, the Church School Superintendent's Quarterly Report or Annual Summary, the Church Treasurer's Quarterly Report or Annual Summary, the Report of the Financial Secretary or Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Report of the Local Preacher, the Quarterly Report or Annual Summary of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, the Quarterly Report or Annual Summary of the Committee on Membership and Evangelism.

ADVANCE
For Christ and His Church
THROUGH
VISITATION EVANGELISM

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Posters—14x11 inches
Stickers for windows
Small Stickers for letters, etc.
Newspaper mats—two columns
Newspaper mats—one column
Letterheads—8½x11 inches
"Your Church Is Calling You"
—an invitation card
"When You Attend Church"
—card on church attendance
"Let's Go to Church," a leaflet
"Why I Go to Church," a leaflet
Attendance Registration cards
Invitation card to Lenten services
—See enclosure with this magazine

LAYMAN'S EVANGELISTIC PACKET

($1.00)

A Layman's Handbook of Evangelism
Dawson C. Bryan
Evangelize! Why?, E. Stanley Jones
The Primer of Evangelism, Selecman
The Greatest Work in the World
The Message of Albion
The Committee on Evangelism
Vital Evangelism for Our Time
Instructions for Evangelistic Workers
Why I Joined the Church
The Methodist Church
Six Steps to the New Life
Prayer Card Folder
The Family Altar
Pray for Others
How Does God Guide Us?
—and seven Upper Room tracts

TIDINGS, 1908 Grand, Nashville

Booklets for Lenten and Easter Reading

The Upper Room Bible Series

In response to a continuing demand for Bible study of a strictly devotional character, The Upper Room has undertaken the publication of a series of booklets each of which will illuminate thirteen high-light passages of one book of the Bible. Well-known Bible teachers have written the booklets.

The format is designed to make them especially useful for study in groups such as midweek meetings and the like. The thirteen high-light passages which are selected from each Bible book for the devotional study provide the material for one meeting each week for a quarter. With this plan an intensive and progressive study of one Bible book can be made for a full three-months period. With the four booklets in this series already available, there is material for a full year's program. They are as follows:

Readings in the GOSPEL OF JOHN
CHARLES M. LAYMON

The Spiritual Message of HEBREWS
FRANCIS E. KEARNS

The Spiritual Message of ACTS
W. E. CASSELL

The Spiritual Message of FIRST CORINTHIANS
FRANK S. HICKMAN

Set of all four, 50 cents. Single copies, 15 cents each; 25 copies, $3.00; 100 copies, $10.00.

Lovely Gifts with Great Spiritual Significance

A Pocket Prayer Book

Ideal as a gift. 144 pages. Bishop Cushman has compiled prayers, scripture readings, and some of his own well-loved poetry to form a volume that touches the hearts and minds of Christians. Beautifully bound in black imitation leather, vest-pocket size, red edges, gold stamped. Price, 35 cents each; 3 copies for $1.

SPECIAL WHITE BINDING

A de luxe edition of the above book A POCKET PRAYER BOOK is available for those who wish to use it as a gift for special occasions, such as weddings, graduation, joining the church, birthdays, and Christmas. Bound in white imitation leather with gold stamping and with edges red under gold, each copy is individually wrapped in cellophane. Price, 75 cents each.

The Pocket Book of Faith

THE POCKET BOOK OF FAITH includes more than two dozen of Bishop Cushman's own poems as well as prayers, songs, and scripture passages. Bound in blue imitation leather. This vest-pocket sized book will be most acceptable as a gift for Christmas and other occasions. Price, 35 cents each; 3 copies for $1.00.

Christian Family Series

These booklets help in the development of Christian family life. They are especially appropriate as gifts to those who are just making a home or for those families who are just coming into Christian Fellowship.

A Dwelling Place for God
ARTHUR W. HEWITT

The Marks of a Christian Home
HAZEN G. WERNER

The Family Altar
ROY H. SHORT and OTHERS

Prices: Single copy, 10 cents; 12 copies, $1.00; 25 copies, $2.00; 100 copies, $6.00.

Little Lessons in Spiritual Efficiency

ROY L. SMITH

Thirty lessons made popular in *The Christian Advocate* in Dr. Smith's inimitable style.

Prices: Single copy, 15 cents; 8 copies, $1.00; 25 copies, $3.00; 100 copies, $10.00.

Christian Nurture in the Home

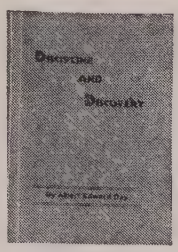
CHARLES C. SELECMAN

A plea to parents to re-establish the primacy of the home in moral and spiritual education.

Prices: Single copy, 25 cents; 12 copies, $2.50.

Order from The Upper Room

Devotional Reading for Pre-Easter Study



Discipline and Discovery

ALBERT E. DAY

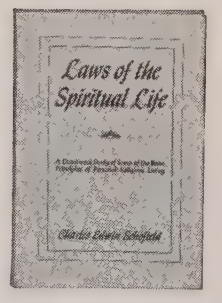
A guide-book that helps develop spiritual life and brings the thrill of spiritual discoveries to the reader. This book is invaluable aid to men and women seeking to develop practices that will aid them in achieving a deeper Christian experience.

Contents: ON DISCIPLINE, WHAT THESE DISCIPLINES ARE NOT, DISCIPLINES AS EMANCIPATION, OBEDIENCE, SIMPLICITY, HUMILITY, FRUGALITY, GENEROSITY, TRUTHFULNESS, PURITY, CHARITY.

Sturdily bound in tagboard cover. Printed from clear types. Handy pocket size. 128 pages. 35 cents; 3 copies, $1.00.

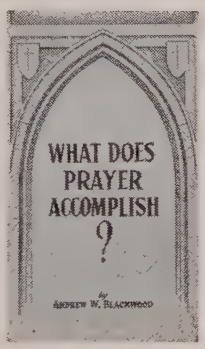
Laws of the Spiritual Life

CHARLES EDWIN SCHOFIELD



Just as there are laws governing our physical world, so also are there laws governing our spiritual lives. This devotional book is devoted to a study of some of the basic principles of religious living. Here are delineated some of these principles that are set forth in the New Testament. The author is Editor of Adult Publications of the General Board of Education.

Attractively printed with sewed binding in heavy paper cover. Page size, 5x7½ inches. 88 pages. 35 cents; 3 copies, $1.00.



The Prayer Series

These six devotional booklets are written for men and women who wish to learn more about prayer and how to use it in their own lives. Each is printed in large readable type and bound in an attractive paper cover.

Pray for Others
FRANK C. LAUBACH

Is Prayer Intelligent?
GEORGE H. BUTTRICK

What Does Prayer Accomplish?
ANDREW W. BLACKWOOD

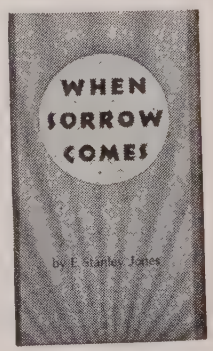
How to Find Prayer More Meaningful
GEORGIA HARKNESS

The Master's Guide to Prayer
ROLLIN H. WALKER

How Does God Guide Us?
E. STANLEY JONES

All Six (banded) 50 cents. Single copy, 10 cents; 25 copies, $2.00; 100 copies, $6.00.

The Comfort Series



Christians find comfort and strength in times of sorrow and distress by turning to their faith. Thousands of copies of these booklets have helped ministers and laymen carry this Christian message to those who have come into a need for this help.

Overcoming Discouragement
ROBERT E. SPEER

The Mystery of Pain
LESLIE D. WEATHERHEAD

When Sorrow Comes
E. STANLEY JONES

Comfort Ye My People
GRACE NOLL CROWELL

The Christian and His Sorrows
W. A. SMART

When Disappointment Comes
JOHN J. BUCHANAN

All Six (banded) 50 cents. Single copy, 10 cents; 25 copies, $2.00; 100 copies, $6.00.

How to Conduct Family Worship at the Table

GUY H. BLACK, OLIVER BLACK, IRA D. BLACK

Prices: Single copy, 15 cents; 8 copies, $1.00; 25 copies, $3.00; 100 copies, $10.00.

The Prayer School

MURIEL LESTER

Prices: Single copy, 15 cents; 8 copies, $1.00; 25 copies, $3.00; 100 copies, $10.00.

Order from The Upper Room

A PASTOR TO HIS PEOPLE

You are my people, given me to love,
To serve, to shepherd through the days ahead;
I pray God that I may be worthy of
This honor; I am glad that I was led
To come to you, that through God's gentle grace
My lines have fallen in this pleasant place.

I would be strong to work where there is need;
I would be true to serve you as I should;
And I would give the Bread of Life to feed
Each hungry soul who comes to me for food;
And I would honor with my every word
The blessed Saviour—Jesus Christ our Lord.

I plead with you for patience. Should I make
An error, I would gladly make amends,
Or if some unintentional mistake
Be mine, I crave your understanding, friends.
As pastor and as people may we be
Builders together for Eternity!

—*Grace Noll Crowell*

The Pastor's Editorial

The Christian is a product of God's workmanship. He is a new creation in Christ. He is not a reformed man, but a regenerated man. His salvation is not a product of his own work, but it is the gift of God: "For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:8-10). The purpose of this workmanship and new creation in Christ is "unto good works." The new life in Christ is prolific of all manner of good works, but the good works without Christ leave us "dead in trespasses and sin."

Jesus is "the way, the truth and the life." The new quickening in Christ brings about such a transformation in the lives of men that the world is attracted, and takes knowledge of the fact that something has happened. Of the disciples of the early Christian church it was said: "They took knowledge that they had been with Jesus."

—*The Glide Evangel,* Glide Methodist Church,
San Francisco, California.

Do We Have Five Years?

"The nations are rushing toward destruction, and the time is short!" writes Dr. Paul Hutchinson in *The Christian Century.* "Where are the churches which give the impression of living with awareness that they have no more than a few years, perhaps only a few months, left in which to press on a doomed society their offer of salvation? I am not sure what the significance is, if any, but I must acknowledge that I get a much more sobering impression of the lost state of man and the doom which threatens his institutions from the pages of *The New Yorker* than I do from most of my church contacts. I'd like to see churches and church organizations spend less time celebrating the fact that they have been going for a hundred or two hundred or five hundred years, and more on the prospect that they have only ten or twenty or fifty to go. * * *."

The Lord is at hand. There may not even be five years left in which to evangelize the lost. What we do we must do quickly!—*Pentecostal Evangel.*

Charge Goals for Persons on Profession

E. L. Jorns, superintendent of the Clinton (Oklahoma) District, is always thoughtful in sending to SHEPHERDS the mimeographed releases which he prepares so well for his pastors in the promotion of his district. He plans well, and no worker of his is left uninformed.

Recently he issued an eight-page legal-size release that contained everything, even a full statement on the work of the Committee on Membership and Evangelism in the local church, and a confession of faith goal for each charge for the current year, based on the active membership.

When charges have goals for persons (and that is what the General Conference now requests that they do) just as they do for money, it is a good thing for the Kingdom. It is not enough to report finances in full and persons neglected.

DID YOU KNOW

That a religious census of Seattle, Washington, showed three times more Methodist preferences than members?

That many other cities, towns and communities would show up likewise, and that yours might be one of them?

That, despite Roman Catholic claims to the contrary, a rather thorough religious census of New Orleans showed that city to be 51.4 per cent Protestant?

That more non-members are Protestant-inclined and Methodist-inclined than we have realized?

That a cooperative visitation evangelism campaign in Des Moines won 1,650 persons to Christ and membership in the churches?

That a similar campaign in New Orleans brought 1,525 persons into the Protestant churches, with most of the prospects still to be visited?

That the Methodist churches of the Fort Worth (Texas) District gained 676 new members by a visitation campaign?

That a concerted effort in your district will probably do the same?

That now—during the pre-Easter season—is the best time for a district and every-church visitation campaign?

That thousands of persons are just waiting for someone to speak to them for Christ and His Church?

A PROTESTANT PRIMER

Your splendid booklet, A PROTESTANT PRIMER, has just come to my desk. May I congratulate you upon it. Because of its simplicity, thoroughness of coverage and superb interpretation, it is just the kind of a study that I like to be able to recommend to ministers and laymen; . . .

I very much like the arrangement of the contents covering history, faith and worship, church government and closing with the fruits of Protestantism. This clear and understandable treatment should go far to more adequately inform our people about their heritages and what makes their faith different and unique. I also like the spirit in which you write, which reflects both a positive and fair interpretation. Sometimes I think that this information is presented with a direct or indirect anti-Catholic bias, which seems to me always most unfortunate, and which you have avoided.

—*Ellis H. Dana,* Wisconsin Council of Churches.

I Was at Buck Hill Falls

---CONFERENCE SECRETARIES OF EVANGELISM MEET---

by L. O. Smith
Pastor, Lyons, Kansas

The one who said, "East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet," was as wrong as the 1948 political pollsters. I know, for I attended the Annual Meeting of Conference Secretaries of Evangelism at Buck Hill Falls.

Not only did East and West meet but North and South met as well. Secretaries of Evangelism were there from Alaska to the southern tip of Florida and from Maine to California. They came from the avenues of New York City, wearing the white shirt and Homburg hat and they were there from the plains of Wyoming wearing the colored shirt and broad-brimmed Stetson. They came with the color of those who are but two or three generations removed from working as slaves. They came from the west coast with features and racial tongues which would have caused the FBI to watch them with suspicion during war years. The Smiths, Joneses, and Browns were there; and also the Saenzs, Machidas and the Quintanillas. There were young men, and men not so young—but they all had one thing in common. In each breast there beat a heart with a deep and abiding love for the One who said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

These men, most of them Conference Secretaries of Evangelism, but many of them members of Conference Boards of Evangelism, as well as Staff Members of our General Board, were at Buck Hill Falls to find out how to do a better job of winning men and women to Jesus Christ and His Church.

That was their true purpose and they did not go away disappointed. From the first service Monday evening until the singing of "Onward Christian Soldiers" Thursday noon, every hour was filled with food for the soul.

A staff of spiritual dietitians ministered to our spiritual hunger and the management of the Buck Hill Falls Inn saw to it that our physical needs were amply cared for. Let no one feel, however, that those who planned the meeting were extravagant in the physical arrangements for the meeting. The beauty and the comfort of our surroundings seemed only to intensify the desire to go out and help humanity find the abundant life of which the Master spoke so earnestly long ago.

At the very first meeting the Spirit of the Master was brought to us, and the atmosphere was created for a great spiritual and mental feast which lasted throughout our entire meeting.

Each morning before breakfast we heard Dr. Lloyd Ellis Foster, of Old Presbyterian Church, Newark, N. J. He led us each morning in the "Hour of Inspiration." His themes were "The Conversion of America," "The Forgotten Emphasis" and "While The Lamp of God Still Burns." These were soul stirring messages and we felt "our hearts strangely warmed." Dr. Foster truly helped us to "find God in the morning while the day was at its best."

More than twenty persons addressed us, beginning with the opening Thanksgiving service and concluding with the executive secretary's challenge that we be packages of evangelism for Christ. Besides by the staff of the General Board, and by some of secretaries present, we were inspired by the addresses of Drs. Harold C. Eaton, Albert P. Shirkey, Charles M. Laymon, Ernest C. Parker, and Ralph E. Diffendorfer.

Yes, I was at Buck Hill Falls. Time cannot erase the inspiration which I received as men, from all over our great nation, counseled, prayed, worshiped, sang together. We shall not soon forget the feeling of pride that within our great Church are such able men, such consecrated men—men who are trying to revive the holy fire that has made our Church a World Church.

Yes, I was at Buck Hill Falls, and I thank God that our Church has on its staff of our General Board of Evangelism, men who are keeping abreast with the times in radio, moving pictures, up-to-date devotional literature, and visitation evangelism, and yet at the same time are working to retain the old time power of pulpit evangelism.

Conference Secretaries of Evangelism, Buck Hill Falls, Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 1948

WE CANNOT WAIT
We Must Evangelize Now
Says a Conference Board of Evangelism

Alfred A. Watkins, Secretary of Evangelism
St. Louis Annual Conference

We believe that men are lost without Christ and our faith demands that we evangelize the world now. Tomorrow may be too late. Our hearts are inspired and challenged by the program of Advance for Christ and His Church. The General Conference set for us a great goal of winning 2,000,000 persons on profession of faith during the coming four years, with 400,000 to be won during 1949. This means the winning of one for every seventeen active members.

We offer to the Conference the following program:

1. The acceptance of the goal set by the General Conference, by our Conference, apportioned to each district and church.
2. We call upon every church to make plans for a special period of evangelism sometime during the year. We suggest simultaneous evangelistic campaigns for districts and subdistricts wherever possible.
3. We are asking each district to plan for one over-night retreat for the laymen, with visitation a definite part of the program. We trust that each District Committee will look to the opening of closed churches and to the establishment of new ones wherever needed.
4. We hope that every congregation will have a strong Committee on Membership and Evangelism and that each district will organize its committee as outlined in the *Discipline*. Special occasions, as Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and World Communion offer splendid opportunities for evangelism.
5. Your Board will remember, always, that we work side by side with the Board of Education, the Board of Missions, and the Board of Lay Activities, and will endeavor to cooperate to the fullest extent.
6. Following the request of the members of the retreat last spring, we are planning a similar program for the spring of 1949.
7. We cannot emphasize too much the value of *The Upper Room* for family devotional and suggest the "Parish Plan" for distributing a copy of the same to every family.
8. We recommend "The Handbook of Evangelism for Laymen" (50c) by Dawson C. Bryan, for use in classes and by individuals as well as careful reading of SHEPHERDS magazine. SHEPHERDS suggests many valuable helps in each issue.
9. We would request the Conference, in adopting this report, to include the District Secretaries of Evangelism in the membership of the Board of Evangelism.

TAKE NOTE: This Conference received 3,309 on profession in 1948 compared to 2,966 in 1947, and 3,236 by transfer compared to 3,053.

Primer of Evangelism

My dear Brother Selecman:

A copy of *The Primer of Evangelism* which you have written was placed in my hands by a friend. I want to tell you personally how definitely stimulating and helpful this book has been to me. It is concise; yet comprehensive. It demonstrates a breadth of understanding of the subject; yet the real punch isn't lost. I do not see how anything more clear, more convincing, or more challenging could be written on the subject.

I pray that thousands of ministers may be helped by it.

Faithfully your brother,
(Rev.) H. K. Sheets
Marion, Indiana

Supper for 30

The First Methodist Church, Terrell, Texas, with John S. Rice, pastor, has inaugurated a "Supper for 30" plan that other churches might want to follow, even though some might change it to monthly or bi-monthly or a "Supper for 20."

In the "Supper for 30" plan, thirty men each week receive invitations to meet for supper and for an hour of fellowship and serious study of the church. The ladies of the church serve the supper, and in time every man of the church will be invited to one of the meetings.

HOW AND WHEN?

You asked me how I gave my heart to Christ,
I do not know;
There came a yearning for Him in my soul
So long ago:
I found earth's flowers would fade and die,
I wept for something that would satisfy
And then, and then, somehow I seemed to dare
To lift my broken heart to God in prayer.
I do not know,
I cannot tell you how;
I only know He is my Savior now.

You ask me when I gave my heart to Christ,
I cannot tell;
The day, or just the hour, I do not now remember well;
It must have been when I was all alone
The light of His forgiving Spirit shone
Into my heart, now crowded o'er with sin.
I think, I think 'twas then I let Him in.
I do not know;
I cannot tell you when;
I only know He is so dear since then.

—Author unknown

FRIENDLY COMMUNITY STUDY

Young Married Couple X
Not at Home
Vacant House
Declined Information

Address 905 Jackson Street
Family Name Thornton

	Given Name	Age	Member What Church (Where if out of city)	Local Church Preference	Where Attend Sunday School
Mr.	Roscoe M		none	Methodist	
Mrs.	Martha		none	background	
Children					
	James	5			
	Lillian	2			
Others					

Callers Mrs. Tom Whyte + Mrs Ruble Jones Write additional information on other side.

HV-29-1MM-0945

Prospect and Assignment Card

Name Roscoe M. Thornton — also Mrs Martha

Address 905 Jackson Street

REASONS FOR BEING ON OUR RESPONSIBILITY LIST

Member of Sunday School	Attends Church Service
Child in Sunday School	Wife or Children Members
Baby on Cradle Roll	Attends Some Women's Meetings
X Survey—Prefer Our Church	Attends Young People's Society
Member Elsewhere	Contributor

Other Reasons or Information Fairly new here.
Two small children should be in Sunday School

Called on by W. K. Prince and W. E. Box Date March 21, 1949

Report and Follow-up Recommendations
Secured commitment for profession and membership
Pastor, please visit — preferably at night

Record of Commitment

✓ I believe in Jesus Christ and purpose with His help to live a Christian life

✓ I desire to unite with the Grace Methodist Church, and plan to present myself for membership Sunday, April 10, 1949

___ I wish to transfer my membership to this church. For letter write to

_____ at _____

My name stands on record there as _____

NAME Roscoe M. Thornton
Martha Rose Thornton

Address 905 Jackson Street

How to Use the Visitation Evangelism Cards

SURVEY CARD

The filled-in survey card (Friendly Community Study) illustrates one kind of information obtained in the survey. By a four- or five-minute doorstep visit Mrs. Tom Whyte and Mrs. Ruble Jones secure the information listed on this card. During the questioning they realize that Mrs. Thornton is interested in the church. She indicates that her husband is not, chiefly because of lack of acquaintance with the men of the church. On the back of the survey card, the visitors request that men make this visit, and they determine they will also visit Mrs. Thornton in the daytime.

PROSPECT AND ASSIGNMENT

The information on the survey card is useless unless followed up. The pastor and his workers must transfer the information from the Friendly Community Study card to the Prospect and Assignment card. It is well to make duplicate Prospect and Assignment cards, one for the team and one to remain at the church. In this particular case, the Prospect and Assignment card is given to two laymen, W. K. Prince and W. E. Box, who make the visit on Monday night of Visitation Week. In a thirty-minute Christ-centered visitation, they secure the commitment to Christ of Mr. and Mrs. Thornton who wanted a Christian home and a Christian influence in which to rear their children.

RECORD OF COMMITMENT

The laymen are equipped with a supply of the Record of Commitment cards, and Mr. and Mrs. Thornton record their commitment, checking the statement of their belief in Christ and purpose to live the Christian life. Then the laymen tell them of Membership Sunday which will be April 10, and they record the fact that they would like to join the church with others on this Sunday. The pastor uses this card to plan his spiritual guidance visit, to arrange for training in church membership and the Christian life, and to enlist other church members in helping them feel at home in the church.

EVANGELISM DURING LENT

---The Church's Greatest Opportunity for Evangelism---

When Lent begins, the Friendly Community Study (Survey) should have already been held, all visitation evangelism materials ordered, and the names and addresses of all prospects should be listed on the Prospect and Assignment cards.

The "See You in Church Sunday" materials should have already been ordered and thoroughly distributed throughout the community and in every home. The church program for Lent should be magnified through the mail, in newspapers, on bulletin boards, in bulletins, and in every possible way. The unusual leaflet, "The Angel and Mr. Oddsock," available from Tidings would be excellent to put in every home at the beginning of Lent.

March 2—Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins

Have an appropriate service on Ash Wednesday, one that is deeply spiritual and that features prayer, consecration, and self-denial.

March 4—Friday—World Day of Prayer

An interdenominational Service of Prayer should be held. The women usually promote this service, but the whole church and every church should co-operate.

March 6—Commitment Day

The General Conference voted that "the first Sunday in Lent each year for this quadrennium be designated as Commitment Day, when Methodists will be urged to assert emphatically their strong stand against liquor in all of its forms, and to sign abstinence commitments." The Board of Temperance, 100 Maryland Ave., Washington 2, D. C., has charge of this, including the supplies for this day.

March 6-12

Complete the selection of your visitors (evangelistic workers) for the Week of Visitation Evangelism, the listing of the names of all prospects on the Prospect and Assignment Cards, and all details for both the Week of Dedication and the Week of Visitation Evangelism.

March 13—First Sunday of Week of Dedication

An "Attendance Registration" on this day would be of much value. An "Attendance Registration Card" could be given each person upon entering the church.

March 13-18

Special services for the Week of Dedication as planned locally and in co-operation with the Committee on the Week of Dedication of The Advance for Christ and His Church.

March 20—Day of Dedication

A great spiritual dedication service that will "ne'er be forgot." See article by Bishop Martin on page 4, and article in next SHEPHERDS.

March 21-24—Week of Visitation Evangelism

National Week of Visitation Evangelism to win at least 200,000 on confession of faith. Let your church win one for every seventeen active members it has.

Hold supper instruction conferences Monday through Thursday at 6:00 P.M., and visit "two by two" from 7:00 until 9:30 for Christ and His Church. Advance for Christ and His Church through Evangelism.

Sunday, March 27

This Sunday might be made Family Sunday during Lent. Have a great spiritual message that follows up the Week of Dedication and the Week of Visitation and prepares the way for Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday, and Easter.

Another Attendance Registration would be helpful on this Sunday.

If Children's Membership Classes and Adult Membership Classes have not already begun, begin them on this day and during this week. See this issue of SHEPHERDS for suggested materials, and next issue for additional helps.

Monday, March 28

Use Monday night for another night of visitation evangelism by all visitors. Follow up those who were not at home last week, and prospects who were not visited.

March 28-April 2

Pastor continues his Membership Classes and his spiritual guidance visits upon persons who made commitments for Christ and His Church.

April 3—Passion Sunday

Have a great communion service, observing the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in remembrance of His death and *passion*. The passion of Jesus was something more than what happened in Gethsemane's garden and on Calvary's cross. Study and present the passion of Jesus from the Mount of Transfiguration until He sets His face like a flint to go to Jerusalem, and goes.

The Tidings leaflet, "The Wonderful Christ" by Bishop J. C. Broomfield, would be an excellent one to give to every person at this service, and/or to mail or send into every home.

The Children's Training Classes in Church Membership and the Christian Life should be concluded sometime during this week.

Monday, April 4

Another Monday night of visitation evangelism. Visit until the last person has been challenged for Christ and His Church.

The pastor will have to prepare much this week for his spiritual enrichment service next week—Holy Week.

April 10—Palm Sunday

Let the whole service, including the sermon, revolve around children, the Church, and their consecration to Christ.

Baptize babies, present the parents with the required certificates of baptism (available from the Publishing House) and with the beautiful and meaningful leaflet, "Baptized Today," available from Tidings.

Baptize children who have not been previously baptized and are to be received into the church.

Receive children into church. The pastor is required to furnish every person uniting with the church, on profession of faith or from preparatory membership, a certificate of membership. (*Discipline*, 352.24). The Tidings "Methodist Membership Card" is the best available for this. We recommend that it be given to all who are already members of the church also.

Those who are received *into* preparatory membership (not *from*) should be given the Tidings "Certificate of Preparatory Membership" especially prepared for this.

(*To be continued in next issue*)

"Sweeping the Country"

The expression "See You in Church" seems to be sweeping the country. In fact, a "Go to Church Movement" seems to be getting under way. Let us all hope and pray that this is the case.—*Mississippi Methodist Advocate,* and similar statements elsewhere.

"Continue 'See You in CHURCH Sunday' By All Means"

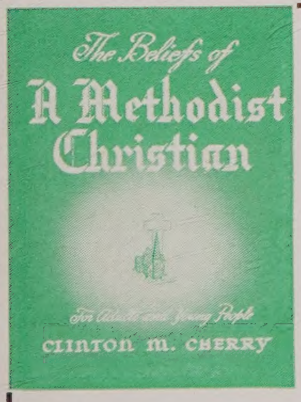
"By all means, keep it up," laymen and pastors are telling us from every side. "It's the greatest thing that we have had for sustained church interest and church attendance. Give it to us again ahead of Lent, and for the pre-Easter season."

Some New Materials—And Better

The pre-Easter season is a natural time for church attendance. Start that attendance at Easter proportions now by a thorough "See You in Church Sunday" promotion and advertisement campaign. See suggestions on page 16. Use order blank, get the materials and start the Movement now.

Money spent for "See You in Church Sunday" materials

will more than come back to a church in offerings that extra persons will give

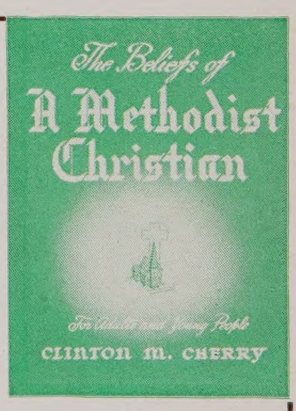


A New TIDINGS Book—Get a Supply Now

The Beliefs of A METHODIST CHRISTIAN

by Clinton M. Cherry

Pastor, Ardmore, Pennsylvania



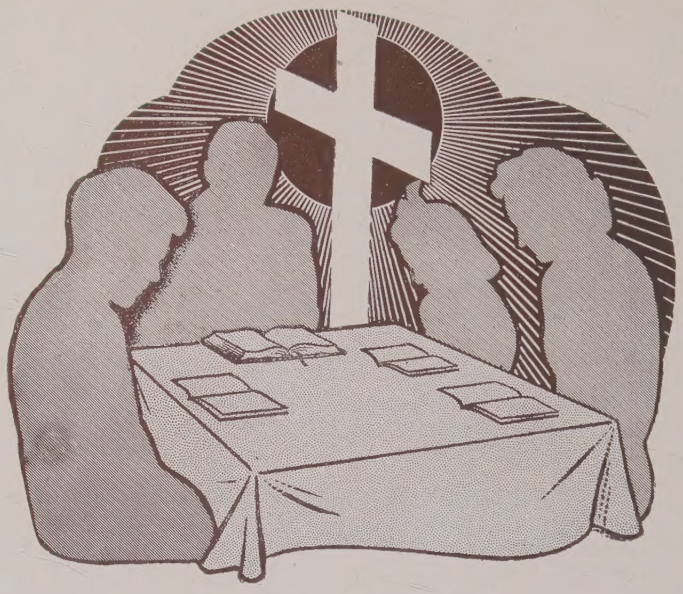
18 Chapters—96 Pages

1. What Is Religion ?
2. Why Do We Believe in God?
3. Our Relation to God
4. What Is the Christian Religion?
5. Sin and Salvation
6. The Life of the Spirit
7. The Doctrine of the Trinity
8. Providence and the Problem of Evil
9. The Kingdom of God
10. The Kingdom and the Church
11. The Church
12. Worship
13. Prayer
14. The Sacraments
15. Denominational Christianity
16. Eternal Life—The Goal of Our Striving
17. What Does It Mean to Be a Christian?
18. A Philosophy for Living

Every pastor in Methodism should order 10 to 25 copies now—and more later

They will sell themselves

Order from TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 4, Tenn. Order blank enclosed.



The Lenten Season

March 2—April 17

A FOUR POINT PROGRAM

1. Daily Devotions. Personal Meditations and the Family Altar ought to be established in every home. No family is too busy to spend a few minutes in Bible Reading, Prayer, and Meditation. *The Upper Room* is a convenient and helpful guide.

2. Grace at Meals. This season offers an opportunity to give new emphasis to the custom of pausing before each meal to give thanks. There are suggested table blessings on the back cover of *The Upper Room.*

3. Church Attendance. The value of families worshipping together is one that ought to be magnified in the pre-Easter season. Here is one of the habits that leads to the fullness of the Christian life.

4. Helping Others Find Christ. Every Christian realizes that he has a duty to help extend the Kingdom. There are many ways each of us can help. Invite friends and neighbors to worship services. Show a friendly concern for them. Many people have been won to Christ because copies of *The Upper Room* were made available to them.

Order Extra Copies of the Lenten issue (March-April) for your church.

The Upper Room **1908 Grand Ave.** **Nashville 4, Tenn.**

Cover Photo: J. Manning Potts

SHEPHERDS is the only mailing from Tidings, The Upper Room, or any of the departments of the General Board of Evangelism to all the pastors of The Methodist Church. The whole program of evangelism is presented in this monthly magazine. Read each issue with care and put extra copies into the hands of the Committee on Membership and Evangelism.